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*The Trusted Integrator for Sustainable Solutions*

REMOVAL SUPPORT TEAM 3  
EPA CONTRACT EP-S2-14-01

June 7, 2018

Mr. Daniel Gaughan, On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II  
Response & Prevention Branch  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, NJ 08837

**EPA CONTRACT No: EP-S2-14-01**  
**TDD No: TO-0010-0015**  
**DC No: RST3-04-D-0192**  
**SUBJECT: DRAFT SITE-SPECIFIC HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN**  
**CANADIAN RADIUM AND URANIUM CORP. SITE**  
**MOUNT KISCO, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Dear Mr. Gaughan,

Enclosed please find the Draft Site-Specific Health & Safety Plan for the Removal Assessment to be performed at the Canadian Radium and Uranium Corp. Site (the Site) located in Mount Kisco, Westchester County, New York. This plan covers the ground radiological survey, radon and soil sampling activities to be conducted at the Site. The date of the Removal Assessment is yet to be determined.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (732) 585-4413.

Sincerely,

WESTON SOLUTIONS, INC.

Bernard Nwosu  
RST 3 Site Project Manager

Enclosure:  
cc: TDD File: TO-0010-0015

*an employee-owned company*



In association with Scientific and Environmental Associates, Inc.,  
Environmental Compliance Consultants, Inc., Avatar Environmental, LLC,  
On-Site Environmental, Inc., and Sovereign Consulting, Inc.

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# **SITE-SPECIFIC HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN**

## **CANADIAN RADIUM AND URANIUM CORP. SITE**

**Mount Kisco, Westchester County, New York**

SSID No.: A23P  
EPA ID No.: NYD987001468

DC No: RST3-04-D-0192  
TDD No: TO-0010-0015  
EPA Contract No: EP-S2-14-01

Prepared for:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region II – Removal Action Branch  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, New Jersey 08837

Prepared by:

Removal Support Team 3  
Weston Solutions, Inc.  
Federal East Division  
Edison, New Jersey 08837

June 2018

**REGION II RST 3 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN**  
**EMERGENCY RESPONSE/REMOVAL ASSESSMENT/REMOVAL ACTION**  
**(Revised 11 July 2017)**

**RST 3 TDD No.:** TO-0010-0015      **Site Name:** Canadian Radium and Uranium Corp. Site

**Site Address:** Street: 103-105 Kisco Avenue  
City/State: Mount Kisco, NY

**Directions to Site:** (Attach color map following next page)

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>1. Head northeast on King Georges Post Rd toward New St</b>  | <b>0.8 mi</b>  |
| <b>2. Continue onto County Rd 501</b>   | <b>0.7 mi</b>  |
| <b>3. Continue onto King Georges Rd</b>   | <b>0.2 mi</b>  |
| <b>4. Use the right lane to take the ramp to Garden State Pkwy</b>  | <b>0.4 mi</b>  |
| <b>5. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Garden State Pkwy N</b>   | <b>0.2 mi</b>  |
| <b>6. Merge onto Garden State Pkwy</b>  | <b>44.8 mi</b> |
| <b>7. Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 14-1 to merge onto I-287 E/I-87 S</b>  | <b>12.3 mi</b> |
| <b>8. Use the right lane to keep right at the fork, continue on I-87 S and follow signs for Saw Mill Pkwy S/New York City</b>           | <b>0.2 mi</b>  |
| <b>9. Take exit 8A for NY-119/Saw Mill Pkwy N toward Elmsford</b>   | <b>0.9 mi</b>  |
| <b>10. Keep left, follow signs for Saw Mill River Pkwy N/Katonah and merge onto NY-987D N/Saw Mill Pkwy N/Saw 13. Mill River Pkwy N</b> | <b>0.3 mi</b>  |
| <b>11. Merge onto NY-987D N/Saw Mill Pkwy N/Saw Mill River Pkwy N</b>   | <b>12.9 mi</b> |
| <b>12. Take exit 34 for New York 133 toward Mount Kisco</b>   | <b>348 ft</b>  |
| <b>13. Continue onto S Croton Ave</b>   | <b>0.1 mi</b>  |
| <b>14. Turn right onto W Main St</b>  | <b>0.3 mi</b>  |
| <b>15. Turn left onto Kisco Ave, Destination will be on the right</b>   | <b>0.2 mi</b>  |

**Total Distance: 73.3 Miles: Total Time: Approximately 1 h 30 min. (Depending on traffic)**

**Note: Commercial License Plates are not allowed on any Parkway, including Garden State and Mill River Parkways.**



*This map is subject to Google's Terms of Service, and Google owns the rights therein. Portions of this image have been removed for clarity.*

### Historical/Current Site Information:

The former Canadian Radium and Uranium (CRU) facility is located to the east of Kisco Avenue and to the west of railroad tracks in the Village of Mount Kisco, Westchester County, New York, in a primarily suburban residential and commercial area. The historic property on the Canadian Radium and Uranium Corp. Site (the Site) is 2.72 acres and is currently occupied by a landscaping business (103 Kisco Avenue) and a stone, masonry, and landscaping business (105 Kisco Avenue). The Site is bounded by Kisco Avenue to the west, southwest, and northwest; railroad tracks to the south, east, and northeast; and a large, privately-owned warehouse to the north and northeast.

From 1943 until approximately 1966, the CRU facility operations included the recovery of uranium and other radioactive elements from uranium-bearing sludge, old instrumentation, and watch dials. This work began as part of the federal government's Manhattan Engineering District (Manhattan Project). From 1943 to the 1950s, the primary product was uranium; subsequently, radium became the principal product until the facility's closure. According to a Village of Mount Kisco memorandum, in 1957, CRU pleaded guilty to charges of allowing three employees to be overexposed to radiation. From March 5, 1958, until sometime after May 19, 1961, decontamination procedures and expectations were established for the CRU facility.

In November and December 1966, the facility buildings (a two-story concrete block building and two smaller one-story concrete block buildings) were decontaminated and demolished. Removal of radioactive dirt to a depth of 12 inches was required on the CRU premises. The most contaminated demolition materials were disposed of by Nuclear Diagnostic Laboratories located in Peekskill, New York, while the less contaminated materials were disposed of at Croton Point



Sanitary Landfill located in Croton-on-Hudson, New York. After decontamination and demolition, a post-operation survey was conducted by Isotopes, Inc. Two locations on the Haggerty Millwork wall, which originally shared a wall with the former CRU facility that was demolished during the 1966 decontamination and demolition process, were found above specifications. One contaminated location was removed by chiseling out the masonry of a wall. The second was a result of tailings from a leaking waste drum which CRU had stored on the second floor fire escape. Since contamination was low here, the area was sealed with 1 to 2 inches of mortar. Railroad Avenue was constructed where the main CRU building once stood and was put in place by the urban renewal efforts in the area. Between 1964 (pre-decontamination/demolition) and 1971 (post-decontamination/demolition), the building layout of the former CRU facility completely changed, and it is believed that none of the original CRU facility buildings remained after the year 1971.

On April 5, 1979, a local newspaper reported the 1957 death of the CRU plant manager due to leukemia from high radioactivity levels found in his body. On April 20, 1979, a survey was performed by the Assistant Commissioner of Health for Environmental Quality, Westchester Department of Health. Based on the surveys, the highest dose rates were found in a small portion of a locked, chain-link fenced area south of the old wood freight station on Railroad Avenue and east of the L. B. Richard's Lumber yard (*i.e.*, an area located adjacent to the railroad). All other elevated dose rates were found in areas covered by soil and vegetative growth. The 1979 investigation reported that the high readings were obtained from an area covering approximately one square yard (sq. yd.) of the property in an area not used by the public. In addition, the report indicated that the dose rates found did not pose a public health hazard to persons passing the fenced area, to persons working in buildings adjacent to the area, or to persons living across the railroad tracks to the east.

In a memorandum dated February 7, 1980, the Westchester County Health Department described investigation findings in more detail. The area in question was approximately 78 feet by 60 feet, enclosed by a chain-link fence located between the railroad tracks and a concrete paved area. The most significant contaminated area was a strip 15 feet by 5 feet, containing two separate "hot spots". A surface reading using an alpha probe survey meter measured 50 disintegrations per minute (dpm). Elevated readings several times above background were reported for an area extending about 50 feet south from the chain-link fence. The memorandum stated that the origin of this contamination was unknown and that it was not discovered in previous surveys.

In September 1993, the Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) completed a survey of the Site; indoor radon measurements were collected (*i.e.*, office, show room, storage/sale floor) which documented a maximum concentration of 9.8 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), and the average of the different detectors was about 8.1 pCi/L. The NYSDOH also identified two outdoor areas where presence of radioactive materials were indicated at the back of Richard's Lumber, and the road that runs next to the railroad tracks and adjacent to a fence post inside the fenced portion of what appeared to be Richard's Lumber property on the south side of Railroad Avenue.

In 1994, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an on-site inspection to measure radon levels, collect air and soil samples, and measure radiation exposure rates. The purpose of the investigation was to determine if conditions required immediate action and if the Site was eligible for long-term remediation under the federal Superfund Program. Elevated exposure rate measurements were documented on both the northern (10–700 microroentgens per hour [ $\mu$ R/hr]) and southern (10–240  $\mu$ R/hr) portions of the Site. Radium-226 (Ra-226)

concentrations in soil samples taken from the top 1.5 feet ranged from 3 to 150 picocuries per gram (pCi/g). All of the radon measurements were below EPA's guideline (*i.e.*, 4 pCi/L) and the air samples collected at the Site did not indicate any radioactive contamination.

In July 1998, a complete radiological survey of the Village of Mt. Kisco and Richard's Lumber (former CRU) was conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The property owned by the Village of Mount Kisco (103 Kisco Avenue) was found to have contamination over one large unpaved area [approximately 4,000 to 5,000 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>)] and a few smaller areas. The 1998 report stated that on the Mt. Kisco property, the highest concentrations of radium observed were a few hundred pCi/g and that most of the contamination was in the top 1 foot of soil. The report stated that the distribution suggests that uranium-containing material was placed on the surface and then the area was leveled. A new road (Railroad Avenue) had been built where the CRU facility once stood; soil sampling completed near the road showed elevated concentration of radium a few feet below the surface. The NYSDEC reported that the distribution of radioactive material near the road appeared to be consistent with movement of soil as part of the building demolition and subsequent construction of the road. Sampling beneath the road surface was not performed. There is no documentation of shielding or other control measures implemented on the 103 Kisco Avenue property, though current conditions suggest that the property had been recently paved with asphalt (of an unknown thickness) or other cover materials.

The 1998 report further stated that the survey of the Richard's Lumber (105 Kisco Avenue) property indicated that radioactive materials were present under the parking lot, but no samples were taken beneath the asphalt. The highest concentration of radium at the Site was found just north of Railroad Avenue (approximately 6,000 pCi/g). A large part of the main outside storage area was reported to be contaminated with radium near the surface as well as within some soil profiles to depths of approximately 4 feet. Survey data suggested that the contamination stopped abruptly at the edges of the paved areas. Railroad Avenue showed count rates that were lower than background soils; NYSDEC attributed these results to absorption by the road surface material (*i.e.*, shielding). The July 1998 report indicated that radiation doses to workers or visitors to the Site as it was being used at the time were not significant. The Site location where the dose rate was highest was a small area near Richard's Lumber, just north of Railroad Avenue. Time spent at this location was small; therefore, the accumulated dose was also estimated to be small. The July 1998 report suggested that significant radium contamination was present on both Mt. Kisco and Richard's Lumber properties. The NYSDEC did not consider the Site to be fully characterized at the completion of the survey.

In September 2013, Weston Solutions, Inc., Site Assessment Team (SAT), performed an on-site reconnaissance and gamma radiation screening of the historic CRU property and other suspected areas of contamination. Background readings taken north and northeast of the Site in the right-of-way (ROW) area alongside Kisco Avenue showed background gamma radiation levels of approximately 7,500 counts per minute (cpm). The highest reading of 73,637 cpm was located on the 105 Kisco Avenue property. Most readings were below 2 times (2x) background. There were three areas with readings that exceeded 2x background, ranging from 30,000 cpm to 73,637 cpm. All three areas above 2x background were located in the back portion of the 105 Kisco Avenue property, east of the historic CRU facility. No signs of ground discoloration were observed.

In November 2013, SAT advanced eight boreholes to depths of 10 feet at the Site for gamma screening and soil sample collection. Using a gamma scintillation meter (Ludlum 2221 Scaler Ratemeter), field gamma screening data collected during the sampling event documented the

gamma exposure rates at 6-inch depth intervals vertically down each sample location borehole. The soil samples collected represented the highest levels of gamma radiation recorded for each borehole. The soil samples were analyzed for isotopic thorium (thorium-228, thorium-230 and thorium-232), isotopic uranium (uranium-233/234, uranium-235/236 and uranium-238), Ra-226, and Ra-228. Analytical results from the sampling effort suggested that there was measureable residual contamination remaining at the Site.

In August 2015, EPA and Weston Solutions, Inc., Removal Support Team 3 (RST 3) conducted an extensive Removal Assessment event at the Site, which included a ground radiological survey, radon and soil sampling at the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), Milepost 136, 103 Kisco Avenue (Property C001), Hickory Homes and Properties, Inc., 103 Kisco Avenue (Property C002), New York Stone and Building Supply, 105 Kisco Avenue (Property C003). Ground radiological survey and soil sampling was conducted at an off-site background location (comprising a strip mall), 145-159 Kisco Avenue (Property C004). Background gamma readings were taken at the off-site background location using Ludlum-2241 equipped with a sodium iodide (NaI) 2x2 scintillator, fluke photoionization chamber (FPIC), and high pressure ion chamber (HPIC). Background gamma readings taken with each instrument were as follows: Ludlum-2241 (7,500 - 9,500 cpm), FPIC (9 - 12  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  at waist height and 11 - 13  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  at contact), and HPIC (8.9  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ ). Gamma radiation measurements collected with the Ludlum-2241 were more than 2x background at six of the 11 soil sampling locations selected throughout the Site, with values ranging from 20,000 to 180,000 cpm. At Property C003, above-background gamma readings (12,000 to 15,000 cpm) were observed in the southeast corner of the warehouse located northeast on the property. Gamma measurements collected with the FPIC indicated above-background values ranging from 9 to 15  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  at waist level and 14 to 51  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  at contact in the Electrical Room of the main building, and from 14 to 16  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  at waist level and 9 to 15  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  at contact in the southeast corner of the warehouse located northeast on the property. Gamma measurements collected with the HPIC indicated above-background value of 14  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  in the Electrical Room of Property C003 and at six of the 11 soil sampling locations throughout the Site, with values ranging from 14.6 to 36  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ . Radon/thoron measurements collected with RAD7 radon/thoron detectors did not indicate any elevated readings in exterior on-site locations.

On August 3 through 7, 2015, RST 3 procured the services of a National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP)-certified company to conduct pre-mitigation radon sampling in all the on-site buildings at Properties C001 through C003. Passive activated charcoal canisters (radon canisters) were used to conduct short-term radon sampling tests that lasted a minimum of approximately 72 hours. Radon testing locations were focused on frequently occupied spaces in each on-site building. Bathrooms, kitchens, utility closets, and hallways were not tested to avoid biased results. Analytical results were compared with EPA Site-Specific Action Level of 4.0 pCi/L for radon. Based on the analytical results, radon concentrations did not exceed the EPA Site-Specific Action Level in any living spaces sampled at Properties C001 and C002. However, in Property C003, analytical results indicated radon concentrations above the EPA Site-Specific Action Level in 11 of the 13 samples, including one duplicate, collected from the main building, with concentrations ranging from 0.6 to 19.5 pCi/L. In addition, analytical results exceeded the EPA Site-Specific Action Level in two samples collected from the southeast corner of the warehouse located on the far northeast portion of Property C003, with concentration ranging from 2.6 to 5.2 pCi/L. Based on the analytical results from the August 2015 radon sampling event, in October 2015, a radon mitigation system was installed in the main building of Property C003 by the owners, following which a post-remedial radon sampling event was conducted by EPA and RST 3. Analytical results indicated radon concentrations below the EPA Site-Specific Action Level throughout the living spaces in the main building of Property C003.

During the August 2015 event, RST 3 collected a total of 13 soil samples, including two field duplicates, from 11 soil borings advanced to depths 4 feet bgs throughout the Site. Soil samples were collected from the interval exhibiting the highest level of gamma radiation (based on Ludlum-2241 screening data) and/or where a fill layer was observed and/or at the discretion of the EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC). The sampling event was conducted in order to verify the presence of residual contamination and potential releases of radiation-containing material in soil associated with the former CRU facility. The soil samples were submitted for laboratory analyses of isotopic thorium, isotopic uranium, and other alpha emitting actinides via alpha spectroscopy Health and Safety Laboratory (HASL)-300 Method A-01-R; Ra-226 (21-day ingrowth), Ra-228, and other gamma emitting radioisotopes via gamma spectroscopy EPA Method GA-01-R; and target analyte (TAL) metals, including mercury. Analytical results indicated that concentrations of Ra-226 exceeded the calculated EPA Site-Specific Action Level (provided in August 2015) of 4.06 pCi/g in two of the four soil samples collected from Property C002. Exceedance of Ra-226 in Property C002 was highest at 0 to 36 inches bgs with a concentration of 10.4 J (estimated concentration) pCi/g. Ra-226 was also detected above the EPA Site-Specific Action Level in all four soil samples, including one field duplicate, collected from Property C003. Exceedance of Ra-226 was highest at 0 to 24 inches bgs with a concentration of 129 J pCi/g. Lead concentration was above the EPA Removal Management Level (RML) of 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) in one soil sample with a concentration of 510 mg/kg. Although no Site-Specific Action Level was provided by EPA for the aqueous (rinsate) samples, based on the analytical results, radioisotope concentrations were generally, not detected.

In April 2016, RST 3 collected a total of 103 soil samples, including five field duplicates, from 20 soil borings at every 6-inch interval up to 4 feet bgs in 15 locations and up to 8 feet bgs in five locations throughout the Site. The sampling event was conducted to identify additional source areas of radiological material at the Site. The soil samples were submitted for laboratory analyses of isotopic thorium, isotopic uranium, and other alpha emitting actinides via alpha spectroscopy HASL-300 Method U-02, radium-226 (21-day ingrowth), radium-228, and other gamma emitting radioisotopes via gamma spectroscopy EPA Method 901.1. Analytical results indicated that concentrations of Ra-226 exceeded the EPA Site-Specific Action Level (revised in April 2016) of 2.52 pCi/g in eight of the 25 soil samples collected from three locations at Property C002. Exceedance of Ra-226 ranged from 2.57 pCi/g to 89.39 pCi/g at 24 to 36 inches bgs. The concentration of Ra-226 was below the EPA Site-Specific Action Level in soil samples collected 0 to 12 inches bgs at all three soil sample locations. Analytical results indicated exceedance of Ra-226 above the EPA Site-Specific Action Level of 2.52 pCi/g in 32 of the 71 soil samples collected from 16 locations at Property C003. Exceedance of Ra-226 ranged from 2.79 pCi/g at 12 to 24 inches bgs to 926.1 pCi/g at 36 to 48 inches bgs. The concentration of Ra-226 was below the EPA Site-Specific Action Level in soil samples collected 0 to 12 inches bgs in 15 of the 16 soil sample locations.

In June 2016, EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) independently conducted aerial overflights of the Site to determine the possibility of lateral spread of the radiation contamination. The DOE overflight indicated potential lateral spread to the west of the Site along Kisco Avenue. The EPA overflight indicated two other potential areas of interest. One area was located immediately southeast of the Site off North Moger Avenue and the second approximately one half mile southwest of the Site located within the parking lot of Diplomat Towers (a residential condominium complex).

On December 12, 2016, EPA and RST performed a non-intrusive ground radiological survey of the two new areas of interest to verify if the prior aerial overflight information generated by EPA

and DOE were accurate. The areas within the parking lot of the Diplomat Towers and the parking lot immediately adjacent to the Site on the eastern side of the railroad tracks and fronting on North Moger Avenue were surveyed. Background gamma readings ranged from 17 to 20 kilo counts per minute (kcpm). Based on the results of the ground radiological survey, gamma readings did not exceed 30 kcpm in both areas of interest, which is below 2x background.

### **RST 3 Scope of Work:**

RST 3 has been tasked by EPA with providing Removal Assessment support for a non-intrusive ground radiological survey, radon and soil sampling at the 125 Kisco Avenue property, designated as Property C008, and located adjacent to and in the vicinity of the Site. The objective of the survey and sampling events is to verify if there are radiation source areas at Property C008 which may be attributed to the Site.

The radiological survey will be mobile, and performed using a Ludlum-2241 and a NaI 3x3 scintillator connected to a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit (for geographical reference) and a laptop (with internet source) which will transmit data via a Life-line Interoperable Network Communicator (LINC) to EPA's VIPER system (a wireless network-based communication system) to provide instantaneous gamma readings through a computer server [Viper Deployment Manager (VDM)]. The instantaneous gamma readings along with the geographical locations will be viewed online on the VDM webpage via the laptop computer screen. A baby buggy stroller will be utilized to provide mobility for the survey instrumentation setup. All survey equipment will be provided by EPA.

Up to 15 radon samples will be collected by RST 3-procured, NRPP-certified, company from frequently occupied spaces in the buildings at Property C008. Passive activated charcoal canisters will be utilized to conduct short-term radon sampling tests that will last a minimum of approximately 72 hours. Canister placement will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines presented in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) *Protocol for Conducting Radon and Radon Decay Product Measurements in Multifamily Buildings* (MAMF 2012) and as directed by the EPA OSC.

Prior to mobilizing to the Site, RST 3 will contact Dig Safely New York to conduct a subsurface utilities mark-out to clear the locations within the ROW areas near Property C008. Following the completion of the radiological survey, locations indicating the highest gamma screening measurements will be selected for soil sampling. RST 3 will procure the services of a drilling company to conduct subsurface utilities mark-out around all the selected soil sampling locations prior to advancing any borings. The driller will utilize a Geoprobe® to install up to 10 soil borings at the selected locations to depths of 8 feet bgs. The soil core extracted from each soil sample location will be screened at every 6-inch interval for gamma radiation using the Ludlum-2241 and a NaI 3x3 scintillator. At least two soil samples will be collected from each soil core at the intervals that exhibit the highest gamma readings and/or where a fill layer is observed and/or at the discretion of the EPA OSC. It is anticipated that up to 30 soil samples will be collected during the sampling event. The boreholes will be backfilled in reverse order with the extracted soil in the cores, tamped down, and sealed with topsoil. RST 3 will provide a generator to operate a steamer for decontamination of non-dedicated sampling equipment.

Furthermore, site activities will be documented with digital photographs and noted in the Site field logbook. Sample management, including collecting and containerizing samples, entering of sample information into the EPA Scribe database, generating chain of custody record, and shipping soil samples to the assigned laboratory will be completed by RST 3. The date of the Removal Assessment is yet to be determined.

**Three (3) S.M.A.R.T. Health and Safety Goals for the Project (Simple, Measurable, Actionable, Reasonable, & Timely):**

1. Safe operation of vehicles while traveling to and from the Site.
2. Adherence to the Weston Solutions, Inc., Radiation Safety Program during on-site activities, including use of time, distance, and shielding to limit radiation exposure.
3. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and careful practices when working around heavy machinery. (*i.e.*, drill rig).

**Incident Type:**

- ☐ Emergency Response
- ☒ Removal Assessment: To be determined
- ☐ Removal Action
- ☐ Residential Sampling/Investigation
- ☐ PRP Oversight
- ☐ Other

**Location Class:**

- ☐ Industrial
- ☒ Commercial
- ☒ Urban/Residential
- ☐ Rural

U.S. EPA OSC: Daniel Gaughan

Original HASP: Yes

Lead RST 3: Lionel Montanez

Date of Initial Site Activities: To be determined

Site Health & Safety Coordinator: Lionel Montanez

Site Health & Safety Alternate: Bernard Nwosu

**Response Activities/Dates of Response (fill in as applicable)**

**Emergency Response:**

- ☐ Perimeter Recon -
- ☐ Site Entry -
- ☐ Visual Documentation -
- ☐ Multi-Media Sampling -
- ☐ Decontamination -

**Removal Assessment:**

- ☒ Site Radiation Screening – To be determined
- ☒ Site Entry – To be determined
- ☒ Visual Documentation – To be determined
- ☒ Multi-Media Sampling – To be determined
- ☒ Decontamination – To be determined

**Removal Action:**

- ☐ Perimeter Recon
- ☐ Site Entry
- ☐ Visual Documentation
- ☐ Multi-Media Sampling
- ☐ Decontamination

**Physical Safety Hazards to Personnel:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inclement Weather – Attach FLD02	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heat – Attach FLD05	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cold – Attach FLD06
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confined Space – Attach FLD08	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial Trucks – Attach FLD09	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manual Lifting – Attach FLD10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Terrain – Attach FLD11	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structural Integrity – Attach FLD13	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site Security – Attach FLD14
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pressurized Containers, Systems – Attach FLD16	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use of Boats – Attach FLD18	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterways – Attach FLD19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Explosives – Attach FLD21	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy Equipment – Attach FLD22	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aerial Lifts and Manlifts – Attach FLD24
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elevated Surfaces and Fall Protection – Attach FLD25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ladders – Attach FLD26	<input type="checkbox"/>	Excavations/Trenching – Attach FLD28
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fire Prevention – Attach FLD31	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fire Extinguishers – Attach FLD32	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Underground/Overhead Utilities – Attach FLD34
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand and Power Tools – Attach FLD38	<input type="checkbox"/>	Illumination – Attach FLD39	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage Tanks – Attach FLD40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lead Exposure – Attach FLD46	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sample Storage – Attach FLD49	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cadmium Exposure – Attach FLD50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asbestos Exposure – Attach FLD52	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hexavalent Chromium Exposure – Attach FLD 53	<input type="checkbox"/>	Benzene Exposure – Attach FLD 54
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drilling Safety – Attach FLD56	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drum Handling – Attach FLD58	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gasoline Contaminant Exposure – Attach FLD61
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Noise – Attach CECHSP, Section 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walking/Working Surfaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oxygen Deficiency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknowns in Tanks or Drums	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonionizing Radiation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ionizing Radiation

### **Biological Hazards to Personnel:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infectious/Medical/Hospital Waste – Attach FLD 44 and 45 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-domesticated Animals – Attach RST 3 FLD43      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insects – Attach RST 3 FLD 43B                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poisonous Plants/Vegetation – Attach RST 3 FLD 43D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raw Sewage   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bloodborne Pathogens – Attach FLD 44 and 45                   |

### **Training Requirements:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40-Hour HAZWOPER Training with three days supervised experience | <input type="checkbox"/> 8-Hour Management or Supervisor Training in addition to basic training course |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8-Hour Annual Refresher Health and Safety Training              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Specific Health and Safety Training                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOT (CMV Training - ERV in Use)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bio-Medical Collection and Response   |

### **Medical Surveillance Requirements:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baseline initial physical examination with physician certification  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual medical examination with physician certification |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site-specific medical monitoring protocol (Radiation, Heavy Metals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos worker medical protocol                                   |

### **Vehicle Use Assessment and Selection:**

Driving is one of the most hazardous and frequent activities for Weston Employees. As such, Weston Employees are required to adhere to established safe operating practices in order to maintain their eligibility to drive Weston owned, leased, or rented vehicles. Every person riding in a Weston vehicle, including passengers must maintain a commitment for a safe journey. This means being attentive while in the vehicle and helping the driver to notice hazards ahead of and around the vehicle and ensure that their presence does not distract the driver from safely operating the vehicle.

A high percentage of vehicle accidents occur when operating in reverse. Anytime a vehicle is operated in reverse, e.g., backing out of a parking area, if there are passengers, at least one of them are to assist the driver by acting as a guide person during the reverse movement or during other vehicle operation where it would be prudent to have a guide person(s) participate in the vehicle movement. When practical, the preferred parking method would be to back into the parking area.

At a minimum, each Weston Driver must:

- Possess a current, valid drivers' license
- Current Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) card when operating the Emergency Response Vehicle
- Obey posted speed limits and traffic laws
- Wear seat belts at all times while the vehicle is in operation
- Conduct a 360 degree inspection around the vehicle before attempting to drive the vehicle
- Report accidents / incidents immediately and complete a Notice of Incident (NOI)
- Keep vehicles on approved roadways (4WD doesn't guarantee mobility on unapproved surfaces)



All Region II RST 3 personnel are experienced and qualified to drive RST 3 fleet vehicles (Tahoe, Suburban, Minivan/Cargo Van, and Emergency Response Vehicle). However, in the event that vehicle rental is required, each person must take the time to familiarize themselves with that particular vehicle. This familiarization includes adjustment of the dashboard knobs/controls, mirrors, steering wheel, seats, and a 360 degree external inspection of the vehicle.

1. The following vehicles are anticipated to be used on this project:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickup Truck  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intermediate/Standard SUV<br>(e.g. Chevy Trailblazer, Chevy Tahoe,<br>Ford Explorer, Ford Escape) | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Size SUV (e.g. Chevy<br>Suburban, Ford Expedition, GMC<br>Yukon) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minivan/Cargo Van (e.g. Chevy<br>Uplander, Chevy Express Van)                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Box Truck (Size: _____)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Vehicle<br>(ERV)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

2. Are there any on-site considerations that should be noted:

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Working/Driving<br>Surfaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Debris                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead<br>Clearance                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Obstructions       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tire Puncture<br>Hazards    | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Terrain                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parking |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congestion                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Site<br>Entry/Exit<br>Hazards | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local<br>Traffic<br>Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Security           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Equipment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Time/Length<br>of Work Day    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                                |   |

3. Do any of the considerations above require further explanation: No

4. Was the WESTON Environmental Risk Management Tool completed in EHS? No

Was an Environmental Compliance Plan required? No

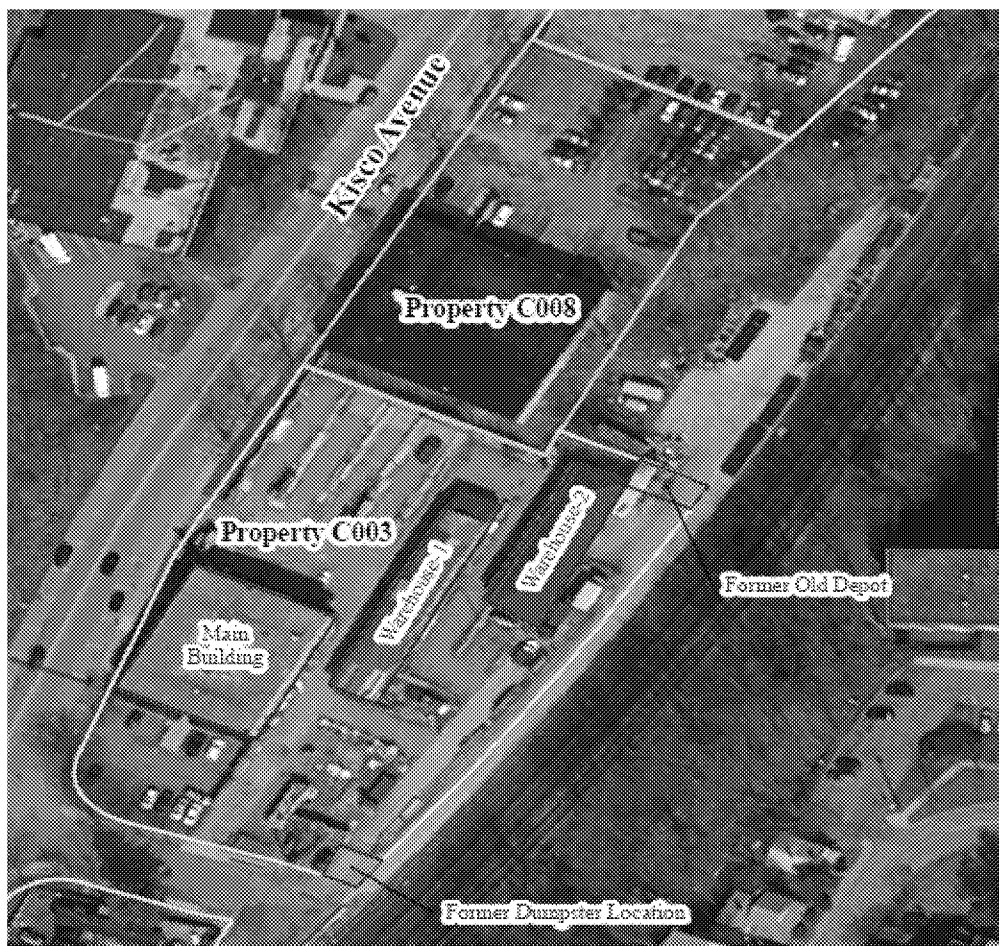
5. Are there any seasonal considerations that should be noted (e.g., Anticipated Snowy Conditions): No

6. Is a Traffic Control Plan ☐ Yes ☒ No required?

Physical Parameters	Chemical Contaminant Radium (See Attachment A)	Chemical Contaminant Radon (See Attachment A)
Exposure Limits /  IDLH Level	_____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> PEL _____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> REL _____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> IDLH	_____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> PEL _____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> REL _____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> IDLH
Physical Form (Solid/Liquid/Gas) Color	_____ Solid _____ Liquid _____ Gas Variable _Color	_____ Solid _____ Liquid _____ Gas Variable _Color
Odor		
Flash Point Flammable Limits	_____ Degrees F or C _____% UEL ____% LEL	_____ Degrees F or C _____% UEL ____% LEL
Specific Gravity	____ Water = 1	____ Water = 1
Solubility		
Incompatible Materials		
Routes of Exposure	_____ Inh _____ Abs _____ Con _____ Ing	_____ Inh _____ Abs _____ Con _____ Ing
Symptoms of Acute Exposure		
First Aid Treatment		
Ionization Potential	_____ eV	_____ eV
Instruments for Detection	_____ PID w/ _____ Probe _____ FID _____ CGI _____ RAD _____ Det Tube _____ Other _____ Lumex	_____ PID w/ _____ Probe _____ FID _____ CGI _____ RAD _____ Det Tube _____ Other _____ Lumex

Physical Parameters	<b><u>Decontamination Chemical</u></b> <b>Isopropyl Alcohol</b> CAS #
Exposure Limits IDLH Level	_____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> PEL _____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> TLV / REL _____ ppm _____ mg/m <sup>3</sup> IDLH
Physical Form (Solid/Liquid/Gas)	_____ Solid <u>X</u> Liquid _____ Gas
Color	
Odor	
Flash Point Flammable Limits	<u>N/A</u> _____ Degrees F or C <u>NA</u> _____ % UEL <u>NA</u> _____ % LEL
Vapor Pressure	_____ mm/Hg
Vapor Density	_____ Air = 1
Specific Gravity	_____ Water = 1
Solubility	Miscible
Incompatible Material	
Routes of Exposure	_____ Inh _____ Abs _____ Inj _____ Ing
Symptoms of Acute Exposure	
First Aid Treatment	
Ionization Potential	_____ eV
Instruments for Detection	_____ PID w/ _____ Probe _____ FID _____ CGI _____ RAD _____ Det Tube _____ Other (pH papers) _____ Lumex

**Control Measures:** The area of concern is Property C008 which is highlighted in green lines. Work zones are currently unknown. The appropriate work zones will be determined on-site based on the proposed sampling area.



*This map is subject to Google's Terms of Service, and Google owns the rights therein. Portions of this image have been removed for clarity.*

### **Work Zone Definitions:**

Each work/control zone can be described as follows:

Exclusion Zone - the area where contamination is either known or expected to occur and the greatest potential for exposure exists. The outer boundary of the Exclusion Zone, called the Hotline, separates the area of contamination from the rest of the Site.

Contamination Reduction Zone (CRZ) - the area in which decontamination procedures take place. The purpose of the CRZ is to reduce the possibility that the Support Zone will become contaminated or affected by the site hazards.

Support Zone - the uncontaminated area where workers are unlikely to be exposed to hazardous substances or dangerous conditions. The Support Zone is the appropriate location for the command post, medical station, equipment and supply center, field laboratory, and any other administrative or support functions that are necessary to keep site operations running efficiently.

**Communications:**

- |                                     |                          |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Buddy System             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Radio                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Air Horn for Emergencies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Hand Signals/Visual Contact |

**Personnel Decontamination Procedures:**

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Wet Decontamination (procedures as follows) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dry Decontamination (procedures as follows) |

Radiation survey, oversight of radon sampling, and soil sampling will be conducted in Level D PPE. All used PPE will be grossly decontaminated and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

**Equipment Decontamination Procedures:**

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | None  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Wet Decontamination (procedures as follows) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Dry Decontamination (procedures as follows) |

All non-disposable, non-dedicated stainless steel equipment (GeoProbe<sup>®</sup> cutting shoe) utilized for field sampling activities will be decontaminated in accordance to EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT)/Scientific, Engineering, Response and Analytical Services (SERAS) contractor's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) No. 2006: *Sampling Equipment Decontamination* before, during, and after the sampling event. Following the dry removal of adhering soil to the greatest practical extent, decontamination will be conducted as follows:

1. Alconox detergent and potable water scrub,
2. Potable water rinse
3. Distilled water rinse
4. Isopropyl alcohol rinse
5. Distilled water rinse
6. Steam clean
7. Air dry (allow sufficient time for the equipment to completely dry)

All disposable sampling equipment (used acetate sleeves) will be cleaned of gross contamination, and disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Adequacy of decontamination determined by: RST 3 on-site Health and Safety Officer

## Personal Protective Equipment

TASK TO BE PERFORMED	ANTICIPATED LEVEL OF PROTECTION	TYPE OF CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE COVERALL	INNER GLOVE / OUTER GLOVE / BOOT COVER	APR CARTRIDGE TYPE or SCBA
Radiological Surveying	Level D	None	Nitrile/Nitrile/None	None
Radon and Soil Sampling	Level D	None	Nitrile/Nitrile/None	None
Documentation of Site Activities	Level D	None	Nitrile/Nitrile/None	None

## Hazard Task Analysis

RISK LEVEL (High, Medium, Low)	TASK/HAZARD	RECOGNITION/ SYMPTOMS	MITIGATION	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
High	<b>Task:</b> Documentation and ground radiological Survey.  <b>Hazard:</b> Exposure to low-level alpha and gamma radiation	Perform continuous realtime radiation monitoring and comparison readings to background levels.	Follow the Weston Solutions, Inc., Radiation Safety Program during on-site activities, including use of time, distance, and shielding to limit radiation exposure.	Level D
Medium	<b>Task:</b> Soil sampling, documentation and contractor oversight.  <b>Hazard:</b> Slips, trips, or falls on walking and working surfaces	Stay aware of surrounding, including exterior walking and uneven surfaces.	Maintain clean work areas by following good housekeeping procedures. Wear slip resistant footwear when walking/working on slippery surfaces. Be aware of and avoid wet slippery areas.	Level D
Low	<b>Task:</b> Driving <b>Hazards:</b> Vehicular loss of control i.e. swerving or skidding into traffic or pedestrians. Collision with stationary objects	Distracted driving, poor driving conditions, i.e. rain, exhaustion/lack of sleep.	Maintain eyes on road while moving; check rear view mirrors and side mirrors when backing up and changing lanes. Wear seat belt and make sure there is a line of sight in all directions. Reduce speed when road condition is slippery. Pull to curb to answer phone calls. Switch driver if exhausted or stop to take short naps before continuing.	Seat Belt and Driver Airbags

## Emergency Telephone Numbers

Emergency Contact	Location / Address	Telephone Number	Notified
Hospital	Northern Westchester Hospital, 400 Main Street, Mount Kisco, NY 10549	(914) 666-1200	Nos
Ambulance	Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps 310 Lexington Avenue Mount Kisco, NY 10549	Call 911 or (914) 241-1126	No
Police	The Mount Kisco Police Department 40 Green St Mount Kisco, NY 10549	(914) 241-1100 Or call 911	No
Fire Department	Mount Kisco Fire Department 29 Green ST Mount Kisco, NY 10549	(914) 666-4692 Or Call 911	No

Chemical Trauma Capability?

If no, closest backup: ☐ Yes ☒ No Phone:

Directions to Hospital (Attach Color Map Following This Page):

1. Head south on **Kisco Ave** toward **Railroad Ave** 0.2 mi
2. Continue onto **Maple Ave** 0.3 mi
3. Continue onto **Lieto Dr** 0.2 mi
4. Turn right onto **Lexington Ave** 0.2 mi
5. Turn left onto **Smith Ave** 0.3 mi
6. Turn right onto **Main St, Destination will be on the right** 0.2 mi

**Total Estimated Distance: 1.5 miles. Total Estimated Time: 5 minutes**



*This map is subject to Google's Terms of Service, and Google is the owner of rights therein. Portions of this image have been removed for clarity.*

Route verified by: Ashley Gutierrez

Date: 6/4/2018

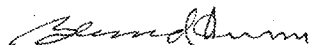
**Additional Emergency Telephone Contacts**

<b>WESTON Medical Emergency Service</b> Dr. Peter Greaney, Medical Director WorkCare 300 South Harbor Blvd, Suite 600 Anaheim, California 92805	800-455-6155 Regular Business Hours (9AM to 7:30PM) <b>Dial 0 or Ext. 175 for Michelle Bui to request the on-call clinician.</b> 800-455-6155 After Hours (Weekdays 7:31PM to 8:59AM, Weekends, Holidays) <b>Dial 3 to reach the after-hours answering service. Request that the service connect you with the on-call clinician or the on-call clinician will return your call within 30 minutes.</b>
Chemtrec	800-424-9300
ATSDR	404-639-0615
ATF (explosives information)	800-424-9555
National Response Center	800-424-8802
National Poison Control Center	800-764-7661
<b>Chemtel</b>	800-255-3924
DOT	800-424-8802
CDC	800-232-0124

### Pre-Response Approval

HASP prepared by: Ashley Gutierrez

Date: 6/6/2018

Pre-Response/Entry Approval by: 

Date: 6/6/2018

Tasks Conducted	Level of Protection/Specific PPE Used
Radiological Surveying	Level D
Radon and Soil Sampling	Level D
Documentation of Site Activities	Level D



## Hazardous Waste Site and Environmental Sampling Activities

Off ☐ Yes ☒ No  
On ☒ Yes ☐ No

Describe types of samples and methods used to obtain samples:

RST 3-procured, NRPP-certified, company will provide field support for identifying radon canister placement locations in living spaces of on-site buildings, placing the canisters, picking up the canisters, and delivering to the assigned laboratory for radon analysis. Passive activated charcoal canisters will be utilized to conduct short-term radon sampling tests that will last a minimum of approximately 72 hours. Weather information including, temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and barometric pressure will be documented during canister deployment and pickup. Canister placement will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines presented in the ANSI/AARST *Protocol for Conducting Radon and Radon Decay Product Measurements in Multifamily Buildings* (MAMF 2012) and as directed by the OSC. Radon testing locations will be focused on frequently occupied spaces in each on-site building. Bathrooms, kitchens, utility closets, and hallways will not tested to avoid biased results. The canisters will be raised no less than approximately 20 inches above the ground, and where possible, away from draft and vents. The samples will be collected for definitive data and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) objectives. Field duplicates (co-located samples) and field blank samples will be collected at a rate of 10% of the total field samples.

Soil sampling will be conducted in accordance with EPA's ERT/SERAS contractor's SOP 2012: *Soil Sampling*. Locations exhibiting significantly high radioactivity measurements during ground radiological survey will be identified and flagged as soil sampling locations by the EPA OSC. Dig Safely New York will be contacted by RST to conducted subsurface utilities mark-out in order to clear the locations within the ROW areas. In accordance with EPA's ERT/SERAS SOP 2050: *Geoprobe Operation*, RST 3 drilling subcontractor will conduct subsurface utilities mark-out around all the proposed soil sampling locations prior to advancing soil borings with a Geoprobe®. Soil borings will be advanced to depths of 8 feet bgs. The soil cores extracted from each soil sample location will be screened at every 6-inch interval for gamma radiation using the Ludlum-2241 and a NaI 3x3 scintillator. At least two soil samples will be collected from each soil core at the intervals that exhibit the highest gamma readings and/or where a fill layer is observed and/or at the discretion of the EPA OSC. The boreholes will be backfilled in reverse order with the extracted soil in the cores, tamped down, and sealed with topsoil. It is anticipated that up to 30 soil samples, including QA/QC samples, will be collected.

Decontamination of non-dedicated sampling equipment (*i.e.* Geoprobe® cutting shoe) will be performed in accordance with EPA's ERT/SERAS SOP No. 2006, and will include: Alconox detergent and potable water scrub, potable water rinse, distilled water rinse, isopropyl alcohol rinse, distilled water rinse, steam clean, and air dry. One rinsate blank will be collected at the end of each sampling day to demonstrate adequacy of decontamination of non-dedicated sampling equipment (*i.e.* Geoprobe® cutting shoe).

This sampling design is based on information currently available and may be modified on-site in light of field screening results and other acquired information.

Was laboratory notified of potential hazard level of samples? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: The nature of the work assignment may require the use of the following procedures/programs which will be included as attachments to this Health and Safety Plan (HASP) as applicable: Emergency Response Plan and Spill Containment Program.

Disclaimer: This HASP was prepared for work to be conducted under the RST 3 Contract EP-S2-14-01. Use of this HASP by WESTON and its subcontractors is intended to fulfill the OSHA requirements found in 29 CFR 1910.120. Items not specifically covered in this HASP are included by reference to 29 CFR 1910 and 1926.

The signatures below indicate that the individuals have read and understood this Health and Safety Plan.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	AFFILIATION	DATE

### **Post-Response Approval**

Final Submission of HASP by:		Date:
Post Response Approval by:		Date:
RST 3 HSO Review by:		Date:

## Air Monitoring Summary Log

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Data Collected by: \_\_\_\_\_

Station/Location	CGI / O <sub>2</sub> Meter / CL <sub>2</sub> / H <sub>2</sub> S	Radiation Meter	PID	FID / TVA-1000	Other ( <u>PDR</u> )

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **RADON, RADIUM, AND THORIUM FACT SHEETS**



<http://www.epa.gov/radiation/radionuclides/radon.html>  
Last updated on 2/13/2013

## Radiation Protection

You are here: [EPA Home](#) [Radiation Protection](#) [References](#) [Reference Information](#)  
[Radionuclides](#) [Radon](#)

[Students/Teachers](#) [Librarians](#) [Reporters](#) [General Public](#) [Technical Users](#)

[PROGRAMS](#) [TOPICS](#) [REFERENCES](#)

# Radon

Radon (chemical symbol Rn) is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soils, rock, and water throughout the U.S. It has numerous different isotopes, but radon-220, and -222 are the most common. Radon causes lung cancer, and is a threat to health because it tends to collect in homes, sometimes to very high concentrations. As a result, radon is the largest source of exposure to naturally occurring radiation.

### On this page:

#### The Basics

- [Who discovered radon?](#)
- [Where does radon come from?](#)
- [What are the properties of radon?](#)
- [Does radon have any practical uses ?](#)

#### Exposure to Radon

- [How does radon get into the environment?](#)
- [How does radon change in the environment?](#)
- [How are people exposed to radon?](#)
- [How does radon get into the body?](#)
- [What does radon do once it gets into the body?](#)

#### Health Effects of Radon

- [How can radon affect people's health?](#)
- [Is there a medical test to determine exposure to radon?](#)

#### Protecting People From Radon

- [How do I know if there is radon in my home?](#)
- [What can I do to protect myself and my family from radon?](#)
- [What recommendations has the federal government made to protect human health from radon?](#)
- [What is EPA doing about radon?](#)

#### Reference Information

- [People and Discoveries](#)
- [Commonly Encountered Radionuclides](#)
  - [Americium-241](#)
  - [Cesium-137](#)
  - [Cobalt-60](#)
  - [Iodine-129 &-131](#)
  - [Plutonium](#)
  - [Radium](#)
  - [Radon](#)
  - [Strontium-90](#)
  - [Technetium-99](#)
  - [Tritium](#)
  - [Thorium](#)
  - [Uranium](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Acronyms](#)
- [A-Z Subject Index](#)
- [Site Map](#)

### The Basics

## Who Discovered Radon

The German chemist Friedrich E. Dorn discovered radon-222 in 1900, and called it radium emanation. However, a scarcer isotope, radon-220, was actually observed first, in 1899, by the British scientist, R.B. Owens, and the New Zealand scientist, Ernest Rutherford. The medical community nationwide became aware of the possible extent of a radon problem in 1984. That year a nuclear plant worker in Pennsylvania discovered radioactivity on his clothing while exiting his place of work through the radiation detectors. The source of the radiation was determined to be radon decay products on his clothing originating from his home.

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## Where does radon come from?

Radon-222 is the decay product of radium-226. Radon-222 and its parent, radium-226, are part of the long decay chain for uranium-238. Since uranium is essentially ubiquitous in the earth's crust, radium-226 and radon-222 are present in almost all rock and all soil and water.

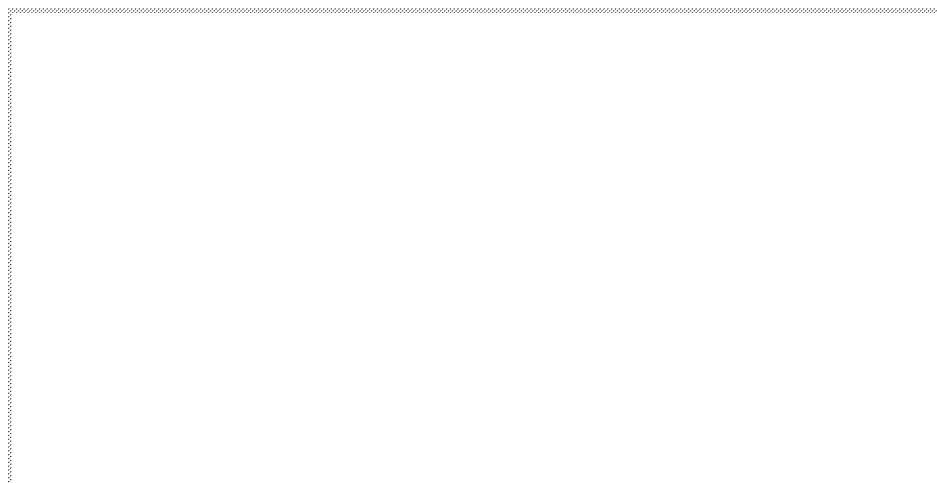
## More Info

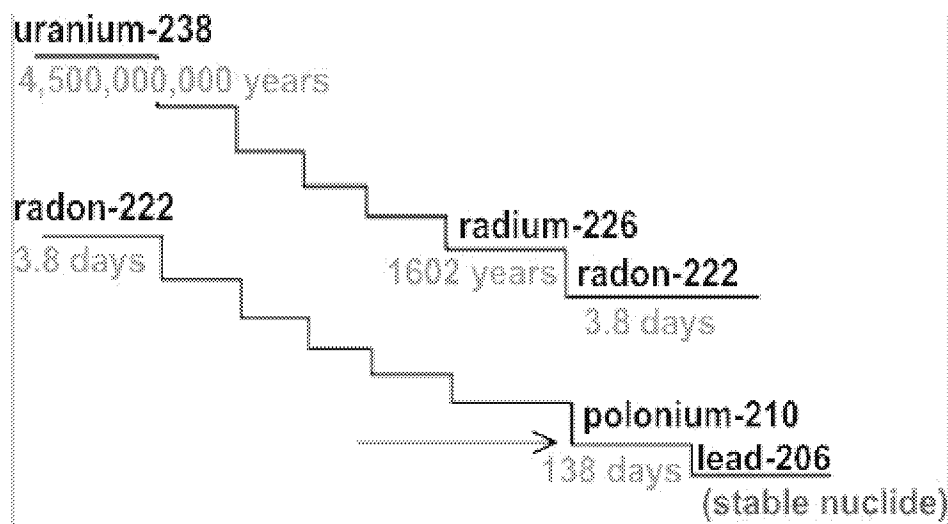
- [Decay Chains - Uranium Decay](#)  
This link provides an illustration of uranium-238 decays through a series of steps to become a stable form of lead.
  - [Uranium](#)  
This fact sheet describes the basic properties and uses, and the hazards associated with this radionuclide. It also discusses radiation protection related to it.
- 

## What are the properties of radon?

Radon is a noble gas, which means it is basically *inert* (does not combine with other chemicals). Radon is a heavy gas and tends to collect in basements or other low places in housing. It has no color, odor, or taste. Radon-222 is produced by the decay of radium, has a half-life of 3.8 days, and emits an alpha particle as it decays to polonium-218, and eventually to stable lead. Radon-220, is the decay product of thorium – it is sometimes called thoron, has a half-life of 54.5 seconds and emits an alpha particle in its decay to polonium-216.

The illustration below provides an overview of the uranium-238 decay chain. Radon is part of that decay chain and is produced by the radioactive decay of radium.





### More Info

- [Radioactive Decay](#)  
This page explains radioactive decay chains.

### Does radon have any practical uses?

Radon has little practical use. Some medical treatments have employed radon in small sealed glass tubes, called seeds, that are specially manufactured to contain the exact amount of radioactivity needed for the application. Radon spas are used extensively in Russia and Central Europe to treat a number of conditions.

## Exposure to Radon

### How does radon get into the environment?

Radon-222 is the radioactive decay product of radium-226, which is found at low concentrations in almost all rock and soil. Radon is generated in rock and soil, and it creeps through cracks or spaces between particles up to the outside air. Although outdoor concentrations of radon are typically low, about 0.4 picocuries per liter (pCi/l) of air, it can seep into buildings through foundation cracks or openings and build up to much higher concentrations indoors, if the sources are large enough.

The average indoor radon concentration is about 1.3 pCi/l of air. It is not uncommon, though, for indoor radon levels to be found in the range of 5 - 50 pCi/l, and they have been found as high as 2,000 pCi/l. The concentration of radon measured in a house depends on many factors, including the design of the house, local geology and soil conditions, and the weather. Radon's decay products are all metallic solids, and when radon decay occurs in air, the decay products can cling to aerosols and dust, which makes them available for inhalation into the lungs.

Radon easily dissolves in water in areas of the country that have high radium content in soils and rocks, local ground water may contain high concentrations of radon. For example, underlying rock such as granite, or phosphate rock, typically have increased uranium and

radium, and therefore radon. While radon easily dissolves into water, it also easily escapes from water when exposed to the atmosphere, especially if it is stirred or agitated. Consequently, radon concentrations are very low in rivers and lakes, but could still be high in water pumped from the ground. Some natural springs, such as those at Hot Springs, Arkansas, contain radon, and were once considered healthful.

### More Info

- Radon in Water  
This site provides information Public Health Standards for Radon in Drinking Water
- Radon Home Page  
This site provides information about the hazards and management of radon.
- EPA Map of Radon Zones  
The purpose of this map is to assist National, State, and local organizations to target their resources and to implement radon-resistant building codes.

### How does radon change in the environment?

Because radon is a chemically inert (unreactive) gas, it can move easily through rock and soil and arrive at the surface. The half-life of radon-222 is 3.8 days. As it undergoes radioactive decay, radon-222 releases alpha radiation and changes to polonium-218, a short-lived radioactive solid. After several more *transformations* (loss of particles or electromagnetic radiation from the nucleus), the series ends at lead-206, which is stable.

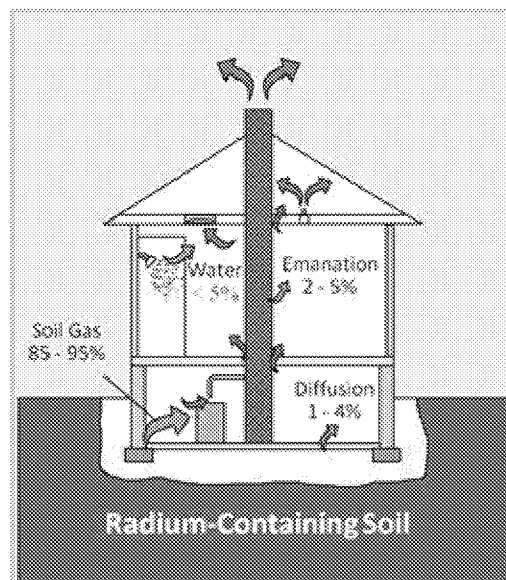
Radon dissolves in water, and easily leaves water that is exposed to the atmosphere, especially if the water is agitated. Consequently, radon levels are very low in rivers and lakes, but water drawn from underground can have elevated radon concentrations. Radon that decays in water, leaves only solid decay products which will remain in the water as they decay to stable lead.

### How are people exposed to radon?

Most of the public's exposure to natural radiation comes from radon which can be found in homes, schools, and office buildings. The illustration at right shows the sources of radon that can accumulate in buildings.

Most radon in homes comes from radon in the soil that seeps into homes through cracks in the foundation or slab. The amount of radon in the soil varies widely and depends on the chemical make up of the soil. There can be a large difference in radon concentrations in the soil from house to house. The only way to know is to test.

Radon is also found in the water in homes, in particular, homes that have their own well rather than municipal water. When the water is agitated, as when showering or washing dishes, radon escapes into the air. However, radon from water in the home generally contributes only a small





proportion (less than 5%) of the total radon in indoor air in most housing. Municipal water systems hold and treat water, which helps to release radon, so that levels are very low by the time the water reaches our homes. But, people who have private wells, particularly in areas of high radium soil content, may be exposed to higher levels of radon.

EPA estimates that the national average indoor radon level in homes is about 1.3 pCi/l of air. We also estimate that about 1 in 15 homes nationwide have levels at or above the level of 4 pCi/l, the level at which EPA recommends taking action to reduce concentrations. Levels greater than 2,000 pCi/l of air have been measured in some homes. The only way you can know if there is radon in your home is to test for it.

### More Info

- [Radon in Water](#)  
This site provides information Public Health Standards for Radon in Drinking Water.
  - [Radon Home Page](#)  
This site provides information about the hazards and management of radon.
- 

### How does radon get into the body?

People may ingest trace amounts of radon with food and water. However, inhalation is the main route of entry into the body for radon and its decay products. Radon decay products may attach to particulates and aerosols in the air we breathe (for example, cooking oil vapors). When they are inhaled, some of these particles are retained in the lungs. Radon decay products also cling to tobacco leaves, which are sticky, during the growing season, and enter the lungs when tobacco is smoked. Smoke in indoor environments also is very effective at picking up radon decay products from the air and making them available for inhalation. It is likely that radon decay products contribute significantly to the risk of lung cancer from cigarette smoke.

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### What does radon do once it gets into the body?

Most of the radon gas that you inhale is also exhaled. However, some of radon's decay products attach to dusts and aerosols in the air and are then readily deposited in the lungs. Some of these are cleared by the lung's natural defense system, and swallowed or coughed out. Those particles that are retained long enough release radiation damaging surrounding lung tissues. A small amount of radon decay products in the lung are absorbed into the blood.

Most of the radon ingested in water is excreted within hours. There is some risk from drinking water with elevated radon, because radioactive decay can occur within the body where tissues, such as the stomach lining, would be exposed. However, alpha particles emitted by radon and its decay product in water prior to drinking quickly lose their energy and are taken up by other compounds in water, and do not themselves pose a health concern.

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## Health Effects of Radon

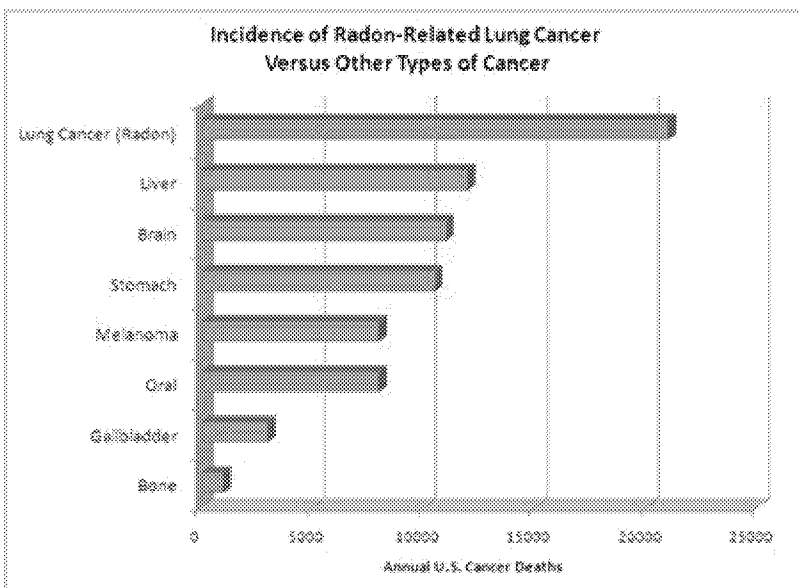
### How can radon affect people's health?

Almost all risk from radon comes from breathing air containing radon and its decay products. The health risk of ingesting (swallowing) radon, in water for example, is much smaller than the risk of inhaling radon and its decay products.

When radon is inhaled, the alpha particles from its radioactive decay directly strike sensitive lung tissue causing damage that can lead to lung cancer. However, since radon is a gas, most of it is exhaled. The radiation dose comes largely from radon's decay products. They enter the lungs on dust particles that lodge in the airways of the lungs. These radionuclides decay quickly, exposing lung tissue to damage and producing other radionuclides that continue damaging the lung tissue.

There is no safe level of radon any exposure poses some risk of cancer. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) studied and reported on the causes of lung cancer in two 1999 reports. They concluded that radon in indoor air is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after cigarette smoking.

The NAS estimated that 15,000-22,000 Americans die every year from radon-related lung cancer. When people who smoke are exposed to radon as well, the risk of developing lung cancer is significantly higher than the risk of smoking alone. The chart at right compares lung cancer cases caused by radon to the incidence of other forms of cancer.



The NAS also estimated that radon in drinking water causes an additional 180 cancer deaths per year. However, almost 90% of those deaths were from lung cancer caused by inhaling radon released to the indoor air from water. Only about 10% of the deaths were from cancers of internal organs, mostly the stomach, caused by ingesting radon in water.

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### Is there a medical test to determine exposure to radon?

Several decay products can be detected in urine, blood, and lung and bone tissue. However, these tests are not generally available through typical medical facilities. Also, they cannot be used to determine accurate exposure levels, since most radon decay products deliver their dose and decay within a few hours.

The best way to assess exposure to radon is by measuring concentrations of radon (or radon decay products) in the air you breathe at home.

---

## Protecting People from Radon

### How do I know if there is radon in my home?

You cannot see, feel, smell, or taste radon. Testing your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing for radon in all homes below the third floor. EPA also recommends testing in schools.

Radon testing is inexpensive and easy to do. It should only take a few minutes of your time. Millions of Americans have already tested their homes for radon. Various low-cost, do-it-yourself test kits are available through the mail and in hardware stores and other retail outlets. You can also hire a trained contractor to do the testing for you.

#### More Info

- [EPA Citizen's Guide to Radon](#)  
This booklet describes commonly available tests for measuring radon concentrations in the home. (See "[What is EPA Doing About Radon?](#)".)
  - [Who Can Test for Fix Your Home](#)  
This page provides contacts for help in finding qualified professionals and do-it-yourself test kits.
- 

### What can I do to protect myself and my family from radon?

The first step is to test your home for radon, and have it fixed if it is at or above EPA's Action Level of 4 picocuries per liter. You may want to take action if the levels are in the range of 2-4 picocuries per liter. Generally, levels can be brought below 2 pCi/l fairly simply.

The best method for reducing radon in your home will depend on how radon enters your home and the design of your home. For example, sealing cracks in floors and walls may help to reduce radon, but is not sufficient. There are also systems that remove radon from the crawl space or from beneath the concrete floor or basement slab that are effective at keeping radon from entering your home. These systems are simple and don't require major changes to your home. Other methods may be necessary.

People who have private wells should test their well water to ensure that radon levels meet EPA's proposed standard.

#### More Info

- [Radon in Drinking Water](#)  
This page provides information on regulations, studies, and state contacts related to radon in drinking water.
  - [Radon](#)  
This page provides access to a wide variety of information and publications on radon and preventing exposure to radon.
  - National Radon Hotline:  
800.767-7236
- 

### What recommendations has the federal government made to protect human health from radon?

Since 1988, EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General have issued Health Advisories recommending that all homes be tested below the third floor for radon. They also recommended fixing homes with radon levels at or above 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), EPA's National Voluntary Action Level. EPA and the Surgeon General also recommend that schools nationwide be tested for radon.

#### More Info

- EPA [Radon Publications](#), including:
    - EPA's "A Citizen's Guide to Radon"
    - Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction
- 

#### What is EPA doing about radon?

EPA has established a voluntary program to promote radon awareness, testing, and reduction. The program sets an 'Action Level' of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/l) of air for indoor radon. The action level is not the maximum safe level for radon in the home. However, the lower the level of radon, the better. Generally, levels can be brought below 2 pCi/l fairly simply.

In addition to working with homeowners, EPA is working with home builders and building code organizations. The goals are to help newly constructed homes be more radon resistant and to encourage radon testing when existing homes are sold.

#### More Info

- [Radon Resistant New Construction](#)  
This page provides information on radon resistant homes.
- [Radon and Real Estate](#)  
You will find a number of tools and resources use by the real estate community that EPA and its radon partners has developed.

The 1988 Indoor Radon Abatement Act authorizes EPA to provide grants to states to support testing and reducing radon in homes. With various non-governmental and public health organizations, EPA promotes awareness and reduction of indoor radon. Partners include the American Lung Association, the National Environmental Health Association, the American Society of Home Inspectors, and others. The page, [Radon Publications and Resources](#), provides a list of EPA-sponsored publications in English and Spanish.

EPA has also proposed a standard for the maximum amount of radon that may be found in drinking from community water systems using ground water.

#### More Info

- [Proposed Radon Rule](#)  
This rule proposes maximum contaminant levels in drinking water.
- [Indoor Radon Abatement Act](#)  
This act provides grants to states to support the reduction of radon in homes.
- [Radon Publications and Resources](#)  
This is a list of EPA-sponsored publications in English and Spanish.

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<http://www.epa.gov/radiation/radionuclides/radium.html>  
Last updated on 3/6/2012

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# Radium

Radium (chemical symbol Ra) is a naturally-occurring radioactive metal. Its most common isotopes are radium-226, radium 224, and radium-228. Radium is a radionuclide formed by the decay of uranium and thorium in the environment. It occurs at low levels in virtually all rock, soil, water, plants, and animals.

### On this page:

#### The Basics

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#### Exposure to Radium

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### Reference Information

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  - [Cesium-137](#)
  - [Cobalt-60](#)
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## The Basics

### Who discovered radium?

Radium was discovered in 1898 by French physicist and Nobel laureate Marie Curie in pitchblende (a uranium and radium-bearing mineral). There is about 1 gram of radium in 7 tons of pitchblende. Elemental radium was isolated by Mme. Curie in 1911.

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### **Where does radium come from?**

Radium forms when isotopes of uranium or thorium decay in the environment. Most radium (radium-226) originates from the decay of the plentiful uranium-238.

In the natural environment, radium occurs at very low levels in virtually all rock, soil, water, plants, and animals. When uranium (or thorium) occurs in high levels in rock, radium is often also found in high levels.

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### **What are the properties of radium?**

Radium is a naturally radioactive, silvery-white metal when freshly cut. It blackens on exposure to air.

Purified radium and some radium compounds glow in the dark (luminesce). The radiation emitted by radium can also cause certain materials, called "phosphors" to emit light. Mixtures of radium salts and appropriate phosphors were widely used for clock dials and gauges before the risks of radium exposure were understood.

Metallic radium is highly chemically reactive. It forms compounds that are very similar to barium compounds, making separation of the two elements difficult.

The various isotopes of radium originate from the radioactive decay of uranium or thorium. Radium-226 is found in the uranium-238 decay series, and radium-228 and -224 are found in the thorium-232 decay series.

Radium-226, the most common isotope, is an alpha emitter, with accompanying gamma radiation, and has a half-life of about 1600 years. Radium-228, is principally a beta emitter and has a half-life of 5.76 years. Radium-224, an alpha emitter, has a half life of 3.66 days. Radium decays to form isotopes of the radioactive gas radon, which is not chemically reactive. Stable lead is the final product of this lengthy radioactive decay series.

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### **What is radium used for?**

In the early 1900's, when it was newly discovered, no one understood the dangers of radium. People were fascinated with its mysterious properties, especially the luminescence produced when it is mixed with a phosphor. Industries sprang up to manufacture hundreds of consumer products containing radium. Advertisements proclaimed its special powers and unique effects in such products such as hair tonic, toothpaste, ointments, and elixirs. Glow in the dark watch and clock faces were immensely popular.

Most of its original uses have been halted for health and safety reasons, but its wide use in luminescent paints continued through World War II, because the soft glow of radium's luminescence made aircraft dials, gauges and other instruments visible to their operators at night. Radium was also an early radiation source for cancer treatment. Small seeds were

implanted in tumors to kill cancerous cells. Safer, more effective radiation sources, such as cobalt-60 have mostly replaced it.

Radium is a radiation source in some industrial radiography devices, a technology similar to x-ray imaging used in industry to inspect for flaws in metal parts. When radium is mixed with beryllium it becomes a good source of neutrons, useful in well logging devices and research. Radium also has been added to the tips of lightening rods, improving their effectiveness by ionizing the air around it.

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## **Exposure to Radium**

### **How does radium get into the environment?**

Radium occurs naturally in the environment. As a decay product of uranium and thorium, it is common in virtually all rock, soil, and water. Usually concentrations are very low. However, geologic processes can form concentrations of naturally radioactive elements, especially uranium and radium. Radium and its salts are soluble in water. As a result, groundwater in areas where concentrations of radium are high in surrounding bedrock typically has relatively high radium content.

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### **How does radium change in the environment?**

All isotopes of radium are radioactive. As they decay, they emit radiation and form new radioactive elements, until they reach stable lead. Isotopes of radium decay to form different isotopes of radon. For example, radium-226 decays to radon-222, and radium-228 goes through several decays to radium-224 before forming radon-220.

---

### **How do people come in contact with radium?**

Since radium is present at low levels in the natural environment, everyone has some minor exposure to it. However, individuals may be exposed to higher levels of radium if they live in an area where there is an elevated level of radium in the surrounding rock and soil. Private well water in such areas can also be an added source of radium.

The concentration of radium in drinking water is generally low, but there are specific geographic regions in the United States where higher concentrations of radium occur in water due to geologic sources. Limited information is available about the amounts of radium that are typically present in food and air, but they are very low.

People can also be exposed to radium if it is released into the air from the burning of coal or other fuels. Certain occupations can also lead to high exposures to radium, such as working in a uranium mine or in a plant that processes ores. Phosphate rocks typically contain relatively high levels of both uranium and radium and can be a potential source of exposure in areas where phosphate is mined.

In some parts of the country, former radium processing plants exist that were highly contaminated with radium. However, most of these have been cleaned up and do not pose a serious health threat any longer.



Radium emits several different kinds of radiation, in particular, [alpha](#) and [gamma](#) radiation. Alpha radiation is only a concern if radium is taken into the body through inhalation or ingestion. Gamma radiation, or rays, can expose individual even at a distance. As a result, radium on the ground, for example, can expose individuals externally to gamma rays or be inhaled or ingested with contaminated food or water. The greatest health risk from radium in the environment, however, is actually its decay product radon, which can collect in buildings.

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### **How does radium get into the body?**

People may swallow radium with food and water, or may inhale it as part of dust in the air. Radium can also be produced in the body from "parent" radionuclides (uranium and thorium) that have been inhaled or swallowed, but this is not a significant source.

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### **What does radium do once it gets into the body?**

Most radium that is swallowed (about 80%) promptly leaves the body through the feces. The other 20% enters the bloodstream and accumulates preferentially in the bones. Some of this radium is excreted through the feces and urine over a long time. However, a portion will remain in the bones throughout the person's lifetime.

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## **Health Effects of Radium**

### **How can radium affect people's health?**

Radium emits several different kinds of radiation, in particular, alpha particles and gamma rays. Alpha particles are generally only harmful if emitted inside the body. However, both internal and external exposure to gamma radiation is harmful. Gamma rays can penetrate the body, so gamma emitters like radium can result in exposures even when the source is a distance away.

Long-term exposure to radium increases the risk of developing several diseases. Inhaled or ingested radium increases the risk of developing such diseases as lymphoma, bone cancer, and diseases that affect the formation of blood, such as leukemia and aplastic anemia. These effects usually take years to develop. External exposure to radium's gamma radiation increases the risk of cancer to varying degrees in all tissues and organs.

However, the greatest health risk from radium is from exposure to its radioactive decay product radon. It is common in many soils and can collect in homes and other buildings.

- [Radon](#)  
This fact sheet describes the basic properties and uses, and the hazards associated with this radionuclide. It also discusses radiation protection related to it.
  - [Radon Home Page](#)  
This site provides information about the hazards and management of radon.
-

## **Is there a medical test to determine exposure to radium?**

There are tests that can determine exposure to radium or other radioactive substances. For example, a whole body count can measure the total amount of radioactivity in the body, and urine and feces can be tested for the presence of radionuclides.

These tests are not routinely performed in a doctor's office because it requires special laboratory equipment. There is no test that can detect external exposure to radium's gamma radiation, unless the doses were very high, and cellular damage is detectable.

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## **Protecting People from Radium**

### **How do I know radium if I'm near radium?**

You need special equipment to detect the presence of radium. However, you can buy radon detection kits at most hardware stores.

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### **What can I do to protect myself and my family from radium?**

The most effective way to protect yourself and your family is to test your home for radium's decay product, radon.

- [Radon Home Page](#)  
This site provides information about the hazards and management of radon.
- 

### **What is EPA doing about radium?**

The U.S. Congress passes laws that authorize EPA and other federal agencies, to protect public health and the environment from radium and other radioactive materials. EPA has issued a variety of regulations that limit the release of radium and other radionuclides to the environment. For example, Congress passed the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA). EPA has established standards for cleaning up and managing leftover uranium ore at inactive ore-processing plants under the authority of UMTRCA. The U.S. Department of Energy is responsible for conducting the cleanups, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission oversees and manages them.

- [UMTRCA](#)  
This page provides a summary and link to the full statute.

Complementing these efforts, EPA's Superfund program identifies abandoned industrial sites contaminated with radium and other radionuclides and chemicals. It then assesses the health and environmental risks the sites pose, and assigns priorities for cleaning them up based on those risks. Superfund regulations require sites to be cleaned up to the point that people living on the sites after cleanup would have no more than a 1-in-10,000 to a 1-in-1,000,000 increased risk of developing cancer from exposure to contaminants.

- [CERCLA](#)  
This page provides a summary and a link to the complete statute.
- [Superfund](#)  
This site contains information about individual Superfund sites.

Other laws passed by Congress address specific environmental media. The Clean Air Act authorizes EPA to establish annual limits, known as National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, for the maximum amount of radium and other radionuclides that may be released to the air. For radium the "NESHAP" is 10 millirem. The Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes EPA to limit the Maximum Contaminant Levels of radium and other radionuclides in publicly supplied drinking water. For 226 and 228 radium, the MCL is 5 picocuries per liter and for 224 radium it is 15pCi/l. Both the air and water standards limit the increased lifetime cancer risk to about 2 in 10,000.

- [Clean Air Act](#)  
This page provides a summary and a link to the complete act.
- [Safe Drinking Water Act](#)  
This page provides a summary and a link to the complete act.

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# Thorium

Thorium (chemical symbol Th) is a naturally-occurring radioactive metal found at very low levels in soil, rocks, and water. It has several different isotopes, both natural and man-made, all of which are radioactive. The most common form of thorium is thorium-232, found naturally.

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- [Who discovered thorium?](#)
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## The Basics

### Who discovered thorium?

Thorium was discovered in 1828 by the Swedish chemist Jons Jakob Berzelius. After determining that it was a new element, Berzelius named his discovery after the Norse god of

thunder and weather, Thor. Thorium was discovered to be radioactive independently in 1898 by Gerhard Carl Schmidt and by Marie Curie.

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### **Where does thorium come from?**

Almost all thorium is natural, but, thorium isotopes can be artificially produced. Thorium occurs at very low levels in virtually all rock, soil, and water, and therefore is found in plants and animals as well. Minerals such as monazite, thorite and thorianite are rich in thorium and may be mined for the metal. Generally, artificial isotopes come from decay of other man-made radionuclides, or absorption in nuclear reactions.

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### **What are the properties of thorium?**

Thorium is a soft, silvery white metal. Pure thorium will remain shiny for months in air, but if it contains impurities it tarnishes to black when exposed to air. When heated, thorium oxide glows bright white, a property that makes it useful in lantern mantles. It dissolves slowly in water. Thorium-232 has a half-life of 14 billion ( $14 \times 10^9$ ) years, and decays by alpha emission, with accompanying gamma radiation. Thorium-232 is the top of a long decay series that contains key radionuclides such as radium-228, its direct decay product, and radon-220. Two other isotopes of thorium, which can be significant in the environment, are thorium-230 and thorium-228. Both belong to other decay series. They also decay by alpha emission, with accompanying gamma radiation, and have half-lives of 75,400 years and 1.9 years, respectively.

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### **What is thorium used for?**

Thorium has coloring properties that has made it useful in ceramic glazes. But, it has been most widely used in lantern mantles for the brightness it imparts (though alternatives are replacing it), and in welding rods, which burn better with small amounts of added thorium. Thorium improves the properties of ophthalmic lenses, and is an alloying agent in certain metals used in the aerospace industry. More than 30 years ago, thorium oxides were used in hospitals to make certain kinds of diagnostic X-ray photographs. But, this practice has been discontinued.

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## **Exposure to Thorium**

### **How does thorium get into the environment?**

Natural thorium is present in very small quantities in virtually all rock, soil, water, plants and animals. Where high concentrations occur in rock, thorium may be mined and refined, producing waste products such as mill tailings. If not properly controlled, wind and water can introduce the tailings into the wider environment. Commercial and federal facilities that have processed thorium may also have released thorium to the air, water, or soil. Man-made thorium isotopes are rare, and almost never enter the environment.

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## **How does thorium change in the environment?**

As thorium-232 undergoes radioactive decay, it emits an alpha particle, with accompanying gamma radiation, and forms radium-228. This process of releasing radiation and forming a new radionuclide continues until stable lead-208 is formed. The half-life of thorium-232 is about 14 billion years. Two other isotopes of thorium, which can be significant in the environment, are thorium-230 and thorium-228. Both decay by alpha emission, with accompanying gamma radiation, in 75,400 years and 1.9 years, respectively.

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## **How are people exposed to thorium?**

Since thorium is naturally present in the environment, people are exposed to tiny amounts in air, food and water. The amounts are usually very small and pose little health hazard. Thorium is also present in many consumer products such as ceramic glazes, lantern mantles, and welding rods.

People who live near a facility that mines or mills thorium, or manufactures products with thorium, may receive higher exposures. Also, people who work with thorium in various industries may receive higher exposures.

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## **How does thorium get into the body?**

People may inhale contaminated dust, or swallow thorium with food or water. Living near a thorium contaminated site, or working in an industry where thorium is used, increases your chance of exposure to thorium.

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## **What does thorium do once it gets into the body?**

If inhaled as dust, some thorium may remain in the lungs for long periods of time, depending on the chemical form. If ingested, thorium typically leaves the body through feces and urine within several days. The small amount of thorium left in the body will enter the bloodstream and be deposited in the bones where it may remain for many years. There is some evidence that the body may absorb thorium through the skin, but that would not likely be the primary means of entry.

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## **Health Effects of Thorium**

### **How can thorium affect people's health?**

The principal concern from low to moderate level exposure to ionizing radiation is increased risk of cancer. Studies have shown that inhaling thorium dust causes an increased risk of developing lung cancer, and cancer of the pancreas. Bone cancer risk is also increased because thorium may be stored in bone.

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### **Is there a medical test to determine exposure to thorium?**

There are special tests that measure the level of thorium in the urine, feces, and also via exhaled air that can determine if a person has been exposed to thorium. These tests are useful only if taken within a week after exposure. You need special equipment to detect thorium not available in doctors offices or most hospitals. Some federal facilities and specialized laboratories have this capability.

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## **Protecting People from Thorium**

### **How do I know thorium if I'm near thorium?**

You need special equipment to detect thorium, and special training. Health physicists and radiation safety officers are trained to measure thorium.

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### **What can I do to protect myself and my family from thorium?**

Most people are not exposed to dangerous levels of thorium. However, people who live near thorium mining areas, or near certain government or industrial facilities may have increased exposure to thorium, especially if their water is from a private well. Analytical laboratories can test water for thorium content. Occasionally, household items may be found with thorium in them, such as some older ceramic wares in which uranium was used in the glaze, or gas lantern mantles. These generally do not pose serious health risks, but may nevertheless be retired from use as a prudent avoidance measure. A radiation counter is required to confirm if ceramics contain thorium.

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### **What is EPA doing about thorium?**

EPA protects people and the environment from thorium by establishing standards for the clean-up of contaminated sites, and by setting limits on the amount of thorium (and other radionuclides) that may be released to the air from specific sources, or found in public drinking water.

The standards for the clean-up of existing contaminated sites generally fall under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly called Superfund. Clean ups must meet all requirements that are relevant or applicable, such as state regulations and regulations issued in connection with other environmental laws. When these types of regulations are not applicable, or not protective enough, EPA sets site-specific cleanup levels that limit the chance of developing cancer due to exposure to a site-related carcinogen (such as thorium) to between one in 10,000 and one in 1,000,000.

EPA issued special regulations for cleaning up uranium and thorium mill tailing sites under the "Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act" (federal regulations are found in 40CFR192, "Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings"). These mills are found mostly in the western states of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

- Superfund: EPA Radiation Guidances and Reports  
This site provides information on radionuclides at Superfund sites.

- EPA's Superfund Hotline: 1-800-424-9346 or 1-800-535-0202
- Clean Air Act  
EPA uses this authority to set limits on the emissions of hazardous air pollutants from specific sources. Hazardous air pollutants include both chemicals and radionuclides that are known or suspected to cause serious health problems. While no air emissions standards list thorium specifically, radionuclides are limited as a group.
  - RadNESHAPS  
This site provides information on EPA's National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Radionuclides.
- Radionuclides in Drinking Water  
This site provides information about radionuclides in drinking water and guidance to help states and water systems comply with the standard. EPA uses its Safe Drinking Water Act authority to establish maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for alpha emitters such as thorium in public drinking water. The MCL for alpha emitters is 15 picoCuries per liter of water.


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**ATTACHMENT B**

WESTON FLDS

	Weston Solutions, Inc.		Doc No:	FLD01-0411
			Initial Issue Date	April 2011
			Revision Date:	Initial Version
<b>FLD01 Occupational Noise and Hearing Conservation Program</b>			Revision No.	0
			Next Revision Date:	Annual Review
Preparation: CEHS	Authority: CEHS Director	Issuing Dept: CEHS	Page:	Page 1 of 5

## 7.0 OCCUPATIONAL NOISE AND HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Noise can cause sudden traumatic temporary or permanent hearing loss, long-term slowly occurring sensory-neural and irreversible hearing loss, disruption of communication, and masking of warning devices and alarms. Additional concerns include increased stress levels and effects on the cardiovascular and nervous systems. This Program describes the process for controlling, reducing, and minimizing noise exposure.

WESTON's OMP will assist in compliance with this Program through evaluation of clinics, verification of baseline exams, and employee audiogram evaluation. The OMP will advise the appropriate Safety Officer and, if necessary, the CEH&S Director of any problems associated with medical compliance or occupationally related hearing loss in workers.

The need for noise-monitoring equipment, noise dosimeters or hearing protection devices must be addressed in the planning stages of a project. Some of the sources of noise at hazardous materials sites, demolition operations, construction and industrial sites which can cause hearing damage are: earth moving equipment (front end loader, bull dozer), material handling equipment (cranes, industrial trucks), power units (compressors, generators drill rig engines), impact devices (pile drivers, chipping hammers), and other powered devices (saws, needle guns, drills, vibrating equipment).


### 7.1 NOISE EVALUATION AND SURVEILLANCE PROCEDURES

OSHA in 29 CFR 1910.95, establishes a PEL, time weighted average (TWA) of 90 dBA for an 8-hour work day and a TWA of 85 dBA as the trigger point (action level or AL) for establishing a Hearing Conservation Program (HCP). The HCP includes baseline and annual hearing tests, and hearing conservation training.

Noise exposure can also be compared to the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Value (TLV). The TLVs for noise are arranged in a scale in dBs related to time periods. For an 8-hour work period the TWA TLV is 85 dBA, and the AL is 80 dBA. The ACGIH numbers are more conservative and realistically reflect current scientific knowledge on the human effects from noise exposure. Therefore, WESTON will use the ACGIH TLVs and Guidance and the 3 dB exchange rate as the basis for WESTON's HCP to provide a higher level of protection for our employees than that offered by compliance with the OSHA requirements which are several dB higher.

Noise exposure assessment is performed only by qualified personnel with properly calibrated and functional noise measuring equipment. If the HASP or the FSO indicates that the site, or activity, requires an instrumentation survey then the area will be screened with an A-weighted sound level meter (Area Monitoring). If deemed necessary a more in depth evaluation utilizing a noise dosimeter may be performed (Personnel Monitoring). Both types of monitoring, if needed, will be accomplished in accordance with requirements established in 29 CFR 1910.95(d).

In the absence of sound level measuring instrumentation, any noise preventing normal vocal discussion between two individuals at arm's length distance ("arms-length rule") will dictate the need for hearing protection. WESTON guidelines require the use of hearing protection on an immediate basis under the "arms-length rule". Exceptions may be granted based upon evaluation of a specific task and duration with consultation with an industrial hygienist.

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Long-term work efforts at fixed locations (e.g., water treatment plants, incinerators) require an evaluation of noise levels. Re-monitoring may be necessary when changes in equipment, processes, or activities result in modification of the noise level.

If impact noise is present, the peak noise levels and the frequency of the impacts should be determined. OSHA and AGCIH recommendations and/or qualified personnel should be consulted if questions arise regarding impact or impulse noise.

## 7.2 NOISE CONTROL METHODS

### Engineering Controls

The primary means of reducing or eliminating personnel exposure to noise is through engineering controls. Engineering controls are defined as any modification or replacement of equipment, or related physical change at the noise source or along the sound transmission path that will reduce the noise level to the employee's ear. Engineering controls include items such as; mufflers on heavy equipment or motors, sound baffles, and enclosures.

### Administrative Controls


Administrative controls may include changes in the work schedule or operations to reduce noise exposure, increasing worker distance from the noise source, and rotation of jobs to reduce time limits of exposure. Administrative time control is not a preferable method for preventing noise exposure since extreme noise for a short duration can cause severe, permanent hearing loss. Administrative controls may be utilized in accordance with the TLV Table ACGIH TLVs and Biological Exposure Indices (BEIs), 2007 Edition. Administrative controls may not be utilized for exposures greater than 100 dBA, regardless of the exposure time.

### Hearing Protection

Hearing protection devices are utilized whenever engineering controls prove to be infeasible or cost prohibitive. Various types of ear muffs and ear plugs are available. Hearing protector attenuation is intended to reduce employee exposures below 80 dBA for employees with standard threshold shifts and below 85 dBA for all other employees.

WESTON personnel and WESTON subcontractors must wear hearing protection devices (HPDs) when required and where signs are posted requiring their use. Hearing protection devices are strongly recommended in any noisy environment, but are mandatory in the following situations:

- The 8-hour average may equal or exceed 85 dBs.
- Any employee exposed to greater than or equal to 85 dBs and who have experienced a standard threshold shift in their hearing.
- Any noise equal to greater than 100 dBs impact, continuous or intermittent.
- Anywhere a "HEARING PROTECTION REQUIRED" sign is posted. These signs are to be posted in all mandatory situations listed above.

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In addition when noise levels equal or exceed 80 dBA employees must have:

- Availability of hearing protectors.
- Information and training on effects of noise.
- Availability of audiometric testing where there is a risk to health.

Not all hearing protection devices have the same noise reduction rating (NRR). Verification of all NRR values must be made by referring to the manufacturers' specifications. The proper hearing protection is selected using results from a properly calibrated sound level meter in accordance with ACGIH TLVs and BEIs, 2007 Edition.

Additional information regarding the selection, use, maintenance, and control of hearing protection devices is provided in the WESTON Personal Protective Equipment Program (Section 5.0).

NRR will be adjusted using the following to estimate the attenuation afforded to a noise-exposed employee in a work environment by muffs, plugs, or a combination of both:

### **Single Protection**

A common formula used to estimate exposure for **single protection** (either muffs or plugs) follows:

1. Determine the laboratory-based noise attenuation provided by the HPD. This is referred to as the NRR and is listed on the packaging.
2. Subtract the NRR from the C-weighted TWA workplace noise level, as follows:

$$\text{Estimated Exposure (dBA)} = \text{TWA (dBC)} - \text{NRR}$$

If C-weighted noise level data are not available, A-weighted data can be used by subtracting a 7 dB correction factor from the NRR, as follows:

$$\text{Estimated Exposure (dBA)} = \text{TWA (dBA)} - (\text{NRR} - 7)$$

*Example:*


TWA=100 dBA, muff NRR=19 dB

Estimated Exposure = 100 - (19-7) = 88 dBA

### **Dual Protection**

A common formula used to estimate exposure for **dual protection** (ear muffs and plugs are used simultaneously) follows:

1. Determine the laboratory-based NRR for the **higher** rated protector ( $\text{NRR}_h$ ).
2. Subtract 7 dB from  $\text{NRR}_h$  if using A-weighted sound level data.
3. Add 5 dB to the field-adjusted NRR to account for the use of the second hearing protector.

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4. Subtract the remainder from the TWA as follows:

**Estimated Exposure (dBA) = TWA (dBC) - (NRR<sub>h</sub> + 5) or**

**Estimated Exposure (dBA) = TWA (dBA) - [(NRR<sub>h</sub> - 7) + 5]**

*Example:*

TWA=110 dBA, plug NRR=29, and muff NRR=25 dB

Estimated Exposure = 110 - [(29 - 7) + 5] = 83 dBA

### 7.3 MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

Compliance with the HCP is required when an employee's exposure to noise is in excess of 85 dBA. Employees who work with drill rigs, heavy construction equipment, or noisy client operations are candidates for the HCP and medical surveillance requirements thereof. Supervisors of any employees who do not meet these categories but who work around excessive noise (e.g., treatment plant operations, print shop, maintenance personnel) must perform noise surveys to determine the need for those employees to participate in the HCP, and advise the safety officer who will notify the OMP.

WESTON's OMP will make the final determination of employee involvement in the medical surveillance component of the HCP. Audiometric testing is performed annually to evaluate the hearing of all individuals who are routinely exposed to 8-hour TWA exposures of 85 dBA or greater (including compliance with the "arms-length rule"). WESTON's OMP is responsible for assuring local clinic compliance with the audiometric testing component of the standard.


### 7.4 TRAINING

Training is regularly provided during WESTON's initial and refresher courses under 29 CFR 1910.120 (HAZWOPER). Alternative training will be given to employees who are included in the HCP but are not required to have HAZWOPER training. Initial and annual training shall be given to each employee included in the HCP and address the following:

- The effects of noise on hearing.
- The purpose of hearing protection, advantages, disadvantages, attenuation of various types, and the selection, fitting, use, and care of protectors.
- The purpose of audiometric tests and explanation of test procedures.
- Recognition of hazardous noise.

### 7.5 PROGRAM EVALUATION

Periodic program evaluations will be conducted to assess compliance with 29 CFR 1910.95. WESTON's OMP is responsible for assisting in this evaluation by providing information relative to employee exposure and medical surveillance data.

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## 7.6 RECORDKEEPING

Employee exposure measurements are retained for a minimum of two years and audiometric test records are retained for the duration of the employee's employment, plus 30 years.

## 7.7 REFERENCES

29 CFR 1910.95, Occupational Noise Exposure

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), Threshold Limit Value (TLV) for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents, 2007

## FLD 02 INCLEMENT WEATHER

Hot weather (ambient temperatures over 70°F), cold weather (ambient temperatures below 40°F), rain, snow, ice, and lightning are examples of inclement weather that may be hazardous or add risk to work activities. Extremes of heat, cold, and humidity, as well as rain, snow, and ice, can adversely affect monitoring instrument response and reliability, respiratory protection performance, and chemical protective clothing materials.

### RELATED FLDs AND OP

*FLD 05 – Heat Stress Prevention and Monitoring*

*FLD 06 – Cold Stress*

*OP 05-03-008 – Inclement Weather & Business Disruption Policy*

### PROCEDURE

The potential for exacerbating the impact of physical hazards must be considered for tasks that expose personnel to inclement weather. Risk assessment and hazards analysis should be accomplished during the planning stages of a project for the most likely inclement weather conditions that may be encountered, i.e., rain and lightning in late spring, summer, and early fall, or lightning prone areas; cold, snow, and ice in winter. The Field Safety Officer (FSO) must determine the proper safety procedures and recommend them to the site manager. Each worker must evaluate the risk associated with his/her work and be actively alert to these hazards. Managers and workers must be familiar with the requirements of FLD 05 and FLD 06.

A pre-site activity risk assessment must be completed when inclement weather occurs. Weather conditions that affect instruments and personal protective equipment (PPE) function must be conveyed to site workers who should monitor function and integrity of PPE and be alert to changing weather conditions. A decision must be made on the proper safety procedures to use if work must continue, or to stop work if the risk is too great. The appropriate Safety Professional **must be notified of all instances of the need to stop work for safety reasons, including inclement weather.**

### Heat

Hot, dry weather increases risk of soil drying, erosion, and dust dispersion, which may present or increase risk of exposure and environmental impact from toxic hazards. Hot weather will increase pressure on closed containers and the rate of volatilization, thereby potentially increasing the risk of exposure to toxic, flammable, or explosive atmospheres.

#### Prevention and Protective Measures

Employees must be protected from airborne contaminants using engineering controls such as wetting dry soil to prevent particle dispersion, and providing local ventilation to reduce volatile air contaminants to safe levels, or if engineering controls are infeasible, using prescribed PPE. Wind shifts and velocity should be measured where change may result in dispersion of airborne contaminants into the work area.

### Rain, Wet Weather, and High Humidity

Wet conditions resulting from rain and wet weather increase slipping and tripping hazards, braking distances of vehicles, the potential for vehicle skidding, or difficulties in handling powered devices such as augers and drills. Rain fills holes, obscures trip and fall hazards, and increases risk of electrical shock

when working with electrical equipment. Changes in soil conditions caused by rain can impact trenching and excavating activities, creating the potential for quicksand formation, wall collapse, and cave-in. Vehicles become stuck in mud, and tools and personnel can slip on wet surfaces. Rain and wet conditions may decrease visibility (especially for personnel wearing respiratory protection) and limit the effectiveness of certain direct-reading instruments (e.g., photoionization detectors [PIDs]).

Feet that become wet and are allowed to remain wet can lead to serious problems under both heat and cold conditions. Activities that may result in wet feet include extended work in chemical protective clothing and wading in water/liquid during biological assessments. Trench foot, paddy foot, and immersion foot are terms associated with foot ailments resulting from feet being wet for long periods of time. All have similar symptoms and effects. Initial symptoms include edema (swelling), tingling, itching, and severe pain. These may be followed by more severe symptoms including blistering, death of skin tissue, and ulceration. (NOTE: The following Preventive and Protective Measures also apply to Cold, Snow, and Ice.)

### Preventive and Protective Measures

Walkways, stairs, ladders, elevated workplaces, and scaffold platforms must be kept free of mud, ice, and snow. Employees shall be prohibited from working on scaffolds covered with snow, ice, or other slippery material except as necessary for removal of such materials.

Vehicles used in rain or cold weather must have working windshield wipers and defrosters, and windows must be kept clear of obstruction.

Drivers must observe traffic laws, including maintaining speed within limits safe for weather conditions, and wearing seat belts at all times. Note that this may mean operating below the posted speed limit.

When walking, workers should use a walking stick or probe to test footing ahead where there is standing water, snow, or ice to protect the walker against stepping into potholes or onto puncture hazards, buried containers, or other potential structurally unsound surfaces.

Prior to using vehicles or equipment in off-road work, workers should walk the work area or intended travelway when puddles or snow may obscure potholes, puncture hazards, or buried containers, or other potential structurally unsound surfaces.

Project managers should arrange to have winches, come-alongs, or other mechanical assistance available when vehicles are used in areas where there is increased risk of getting stuck. Cable or rope and mechanical equipment used for pulling stuck vehicles must be designed for the purpose, of sufficient capacity for the load, and be inspected regularly and before use to ensure safety. **Manually pushing stuck vehicles is to be avoided.**

Prevention methods are required when work is performed in wet conditions or when conditions result in sweating, causing the feet to become and remain wet. Proper hygiene is critical. Workers must dry their feet and change socks regularly to avoid conditions associated with wet feet. Use of foot talc or powder can additionally assist in prevention of this type of condition.

### **Cold, Snow, and Ice**

Cold weather affects vehicle operation by increasing difficulty in starting and braking. Ice, frost, and snow can accumulate on windows and reduce vision. Cold, wet weather can cause icing of roadways,



driveways, parking areas, general work places, ladders, stairs, and platforms. Ice is not always as obvious to see as snow or rain, and requires special attention, especially when driving or walking.

Snow and ice increase the risk of accidents such as slipping when walking, climbing steps and ladders, or working at elevation, and the risk of accidents when driving vehicles or operating heavy equipment. Heavy snow and ice storms may cause electric lines to sag or break, and the use of electrical equipment in snow increases the risk of electric shock. Snow can hide potholes and mud, which can result in vehicles getting stuck or persons falling when stepping into hidden holes. Snow also may cover water, drums or other containers, sharp metal objects, debris, or other objects that can cause falls or punctures.

#### Preventive and Protective Measures

WESTON personnel are cautioned against operating motor vehicles such as cars or trucks on ice under any circumstances. If traveling in icy conditions, WESTON personnel should follow all public service advisories that curtail driving activities.

Personnel performing activities that require working over ice should be aware of minimal ice thickness safety guidelines as follows:

- 4-inch minimum: activities such as walking or skating.
- 6-inch minimum: activities such as snowmobiling or the use of equipment with the same weight and cross-sectional area as a snowmobile.

Personnel should always be aware that these measurement guidelines are under ideal conditions and that snow cover, conditions on rivers, ponds, or lakes with active currents, and other environmental factors impact the safety of working on ice. Clear ice typically is the strongest, while ice that appears cloudy or honeycombed (contains entrained air) is not as structurally strong. Measurements made by drilling or cutting through the ice should be made every few feet to verify safe conditions. Provisions for rescue (e.g., ladders or long poles and effective communications) must be available at the work site.

#### **Lightning**

Lightning represents a hazard of electrical shock that is increased when working in flat open spaces, elevated work places, or near tall structures or equipment such as stacks, radio towers, and drill rigs. Lightning has caused chemical storage tank fires and grass or forest fires. Static charges associated with nearby electrical storms can increase risk of fire or explosion when working around flammable materials, and can adversely affect monitoring instruments.

Lightning is the most dangerous and frequently encountered weather hazard people experience each year. Lightning affects all regions. **Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, and Colorado** have the most lightning deaths and injuries.

#### Preventive and Protective Measures

Prior to working in areas or beginning projects when or where there is an increased potential for lightning striking personnel, steps must be taken to predict the occurrence of lightning strikes. Recommendations include:

- Check with client management to determine if there are any patterns or noted conditions that can help predict lightning or if there are structures that are prone to lightning strikes. Arrange for

client notification when there is increased potential for lightning activities. Ensure that clients include WESTON workers in lightning contingency plans.

- Monitor weather reports.
- Note weather changes and conditions that produce lightning.
- Stop work in open areas, around drill rigs or other structures that may attract lightning, on or in water and in elevated work places when lightning strikes are sighted or thunder is heard near a work site.
- Ensure all personnel are provided with safe areas of refuge. Prevent personnel from standing in open areas, under lone trees, or under drill rigs.
- Observe the “30-30” Rule. If you see lightning and thunder is heard within 30 seconds (approximately 6 miles), seek shelter. If you hear thunder, but did not see the lightning, you can assume that lightning is within 6 miles and you should seek shelter. Remain in the sheltered location for 30 minutes following the last lightning strike.
- Use a hand held static potential meter (lightning detection device) to monitor the potential difference between a cloud and the ground. When the measured potential is greater than 2 kV/m, there is a potential for a lightning strike – seek shelter.

## **High Wind and Tornado Safety**

### High Winds

Many construction workers have died due to wind-related accidents and injuries. A ladder that seems secure under normal circumstances can become unstable during windy conditions and cause you to fall. Scaffolding that is improperly secured can rip free during strong winds and kill bystanders. The risk of injury for construction workers increases during strong winds. Keep in mind that changing weather conditions can affect your daily work tasks, and make sure you have a game plan to prevent proper damage and personal injury.

Stay Informed: With today’s modern technology available at the touch of a button, you should keep up to date with the latest local weather reports. Visit [weatherbug.com](http://weatherbug.com) or [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) to stay informed in case of wind warnings, watches, and advisories. Larger projects may have their own weather station on site to provide instant weather data. Use daily hazard assessments to determine if working conditions have changed or will change throughout the day.

Be Prepared: When you know the weather will be windy, secure loose building materials, scaffolding and fencing that could be picked up or torn loose by strong winds and thrown onto surrounding streets, structures, vehicles, or bystanders.

Know the Limits of Your Equipment: When operating any equipment, take time to read the operator’s manual and become familiar with the wind specifications. Many crane manufacturers have high-wind guidelines to prevent you from operating a crane in unsafe weather. You should also check safety equipment such as fall protection to determine if it is adequate for windy conditions.

## Know the Terminology

### Severe Thunderstorm Watch

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch means that strong thunderstorms capable of producing winds of 58 mph or higher and/or hail 3/4 inches in diameter or larger are possible. If you are in the area of a Severe Thunderstorm Watch, you should be prepared to take shelter from thunderstorms. Severe Thunderstorm Watches are generally issued for 6-hour periods.

### Severe Thunderstorm Warning

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning means that thunderstorms capable of strong winds and/or large hail are occurring or could form at any time. If you are in the area of a severe thunderstorm, you should take shelter indoors immediately, avoid windows, and be prepared for high winds and hail. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are generally in effect for an hour or less.

### High Wind Watch

A High Wind Watch is issued when sustained winds exceeding 40 mph and/or frequent gusts over 60 mph are likely to develop in the next 24 to 48 hours. For summit areas, high wind watches are issued when sustained winds are expected to exceed 45 mph and/or frequently gust over 60 mph. If you are in an area for which a High Wind Watch has been issued you should secure loose objects outdoors that may blow about and avoid outdoor activity that exposes you to high winds.

### High Wind Warning

A High Wind Warning is issued when sustained winds exceeding 40 mph and/or frequent gusts over 60 mph are occurring or imminent. For summit areas, warnings are issued for winds exceeding 45 mph and/or frequently gusting over 60 mph. Wind warnings may issued up to 24 hours ahead of the onset of high winds and remain in effect for 6 to 12 hours. If you are in an area where a high wind warning is in effect you should avoid activities that expose you to high winds. Loose objects may be blown around. Tree limbs may break and fall. Power lines may be blown down.

### Wind Advisory

A Wind Advisory is issued when sustained winds of 30 to 39 mph and/or frequent gusts to 50 mph or greater are occurring or imminent. Wind advisories may be in effect for 6 to 12 hours. If you are in an area where a wind advisory is in effect you should secure loose objects that may be blown about outdoors and limit activity that may expose you to high winds.

Work Safely: If you will be working on a windy day, you should be alert and protected. Wear eye protection to prevent dust and other particles from entering or striking your eyes. Keep your hard hat on at all times to prevent injuries from falling or flying objects. The likelihood of falls from heights is greatly increased by strong winds. Wear the necessary PPE to ensure your safety.

To avoid flying debris and to minimize damage during high winds:

- Shut down outdoor activities involving work at elevation on ladders, scaffolding, aerial lifts, etc.; handling large tarps and plastic sheeting when wind speeds exceed 25 mph; including work with radioactive materials and highly toxic materials that could be dispersed by the winds.
- At 13 - 18 mph wind will raise dust. Follow the dust action level.

- Move mobile items stored outside to indoor storage.
- Secure any items that cannot be moved inside.
- Be careful opening exterior doors.
- Be cautious about downed power lines, tree limbs, and debris on roads.
- Be alert for animals who have escaped from farms and zoos.

Stay Away from Power Lines: High winds can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines resulting in electrocution hazards or loss of power. Your best bet is to keep your distance.

## Tornados

### What is a TORNADO?

A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud. It is spawned by a thunderstorm or as a result of severe weather associated with hurricanes. A funnel cloud is formed as cool air overrides a layer of warm air, forcing the warm air to rise rapidly. The damage from a tornado results from high wind velocity and wind blown debris.

### Tornado Safety

When a tornado approaches, you have only a brief amount of time to make life-or-death decisions. Advance planning and quick response are the keys to surviving a tornado.

Purchase a NOAA Weather Alert radio with an alert feature. When tuned to the proper frequency, these weather radios remain silent until a weather emergency occurs. Once they pick up the alarm tone, they will begin broadcasting emergency weather information so that citizens can protect themselves and their property. Some models of the NOAA weather radio incorporate the Specific Area Message Encoder technology, allowing users to target only those warnings that affect their immediate geographic area.

Conduct tornado drills. Designate an area to serve as your safe area, and practice having team members assemble there in response to a mock tornado warning.

Emergency Communications Plan. Develop an emergency communications plan in case team members are separated from one another when a tornado warning goes into effect. Designate an emergency coordinator. Instruct everyone to contact this coordinator in a weather emergency for instructions on what to do during the storm and where to reassemble after the emergency has passed. Design contingency plans to be consistent with client contingency plans. When possible use client warning and alerting systems and confirm that team members have access to shelters and know how to get to them.

### Know the Difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning

Tornado Watch: Issued by the National Weather Service when tornadoes are possible in your area. You should remain alert for approaching storms. Remind family members of where the safe areas are within your home, and carefully monitor radio or television reports for further developments.

Tornado Warning: Indicates that a tornado has been sighted in your area, or is indicated on weather radar. You should proceed to safe shelter immediately.

*When A Tornado Warning Goes In Effect, Put Your Safety Plans In Action.*

In Your Automobile: Motor vehicles are easily overturned by tornado winds. Leave your vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. As a last resort, seek shelter in a ditch or culvert. Do not try to outrun or outmaneuver a tornado! Use the time to seek appropriate shelter outside your vehicle.

Office Buildings, Hotels, and Shopping Centers: Take shelter in an interior hallway on a lower floor. A closet, bathroom or other small room with short, stout walls will give some protection from collapse and flying debris. Otherwise, get under heavy furniture and stay away from windows. Many tornado deaths have occurred in large buildings due to the collapse of a roof or wide span wall. A corner area, away from a window, is safer than the middle of a wide span wall.

Out In Open Country: When severe weather approaches, seek inside shelter immediately. The chances of encountering falling trees, downed power lines and lightning are far greater than encountering a tornado itself. If a tornado approaches, lie flat in the nearest depression, such as a culvert or ditch, and cover your head with your arms.

**BE ALERT TO CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**HAVE AN EMERGENCY WEATHER PLAN IN PLACE**

**REHEARSE YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS PERIODICALLY**

**KNOW WHERE TO GO WHEN A TORNADO THREATENS.**

## **FLD 05 HEAT STRESS PREVENTION AND MONITORING**

Heat stress may occur at any time work is performed at elevated temperatures. If the body's physiological processes fail to maintain a normal body temperature because of excessive heat, a number of physical reactions can occur such as fatigue, irritability, anxiety, and decreased concentration or dexterity, and possibly death. Because heat stress is one of the most common and potentially serious illnesses at field sites, regular monitoring and other preventive measures are vital to ensure worker safety. Wearing chemical protective clothing often decreases natural body heat loss (cooling) and increases the risk of heat stress.

Employees who are taking prescription or over-the-counter medications should consult with their personal physician prior to working in high-temperature environments to see if their medication would impair their ability to handle heat stress.

### **REFERENCES**

OSHA 29 CFR 1910 and 1926

### **RELATED FLDs**

*FLD 02 – Inclement Weather*

*FLD 03 – Hot Processes – Steam, Low Temperature Thermal Treatment Unit, and Transportable Incinerator*

*FLD 08 – Confined Space Entry Program*

*FLD 36 – Welding/Cutting/Brazing/Radiography*

*FLD 37 – Pressure Washers/Sandblasting*

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **Heat Stress Symptoms and Treatment**

##### Heat Rash

Heat rash, also known as prickly heat, may occur in hot and humid environments where sweat is not easily removed from the surface of the skin by evaporation and is aggravated by chafing clothes. When extensive or complicated by infection, heat rash can be so uncomfortable that it inhibits sleep and impairs a worker's performance.

Symptoms – Mild red rash, especially in areas of the body that come into contact with protective gear.

Treatment – Decrease amount of time spent working in protective gear and provide body powder to help absorb moisture and decrease chafing. Heat rash can be prevented by showering, resting in a cool place, and allowing the skin to dry.

##### Heat Cramps

Heat cramps are caused by inadequate electrolyte intake. The individual may be receiving adequate water; however, if not combined with an adequate supply of electrolytes, the blood can thin to the point where it seeps into the active muscle tissue, causing cramping.

Symptoms – Acute painful spasms of voluntary muscles, most notably the abdomen and extremities.

*Treatment* – Move the victim to a cool area and loosen clothing. Have the victim drink 1 to 2 cups of cool potable water or diluted commercial electrolyte solution (e.g., Gatorade, Quench) immediately, and then every 20 minutes thereafter until symptoms subside. Electrolyte supplements can enhance recovery; however, it is best to double the amount of water required by the dry mix package directions or add water to the liquid form.

### Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion is a state of weakness or exhaustion caused by the loss of fluids from the body. Heat exhaustion is not as dangerous as heat stroke, but if not properly managed in the field it may lead to heat stroke.

*Symptoms* – Pale, clammy, and moist skin, profuse perspiring, and extreme weakness. Body temperature is normal, pulse is weak and rapid, and breathing is shallow. The person may have a headache, may vomit, may feel dizzy, and may be irritable or confused.

*Treatment* – Move the victim to a cool, air-conditioned or temperature-controlled area, loosen clothing, place in a position with the head lower than the feet (shock prevention), and allow the victim to rest. Consult a physician. Ensure that the victim is not nauseated or vomiting. If not nauseated or vomiting, give the victim small sips of cool water or diluted electrolyte replenishment solution (one to one dilution with water, or if mixing from powder, double the water added). If this is tolerated, have the victim drink 1 to 2 cups of fluid immediately, and every 20 minutes thereafter until symptoms subside. Seek medical attention at the advice of the consulting physician.

### Heat Stroke

Heat stroke is an acute and dangerous reaction to heat stress caused by a failure of the body's heat regulating mechanisms, i.e., the individual's temperature control system (sweating) stops working correctly. Body temperature rises so high that brain damage and death may result if the person is not cooled quickly.

*Symptoms* – Red, hot, dry skin (although the person may have been sweating earlier); nausea, dizziness, confusion, extremely high body temperature (i.e., 104°F or greater as measured with an oral thermometer), rapid respiratory and pulse rate, seizures or convulsions, unconsciousness or coma.

*Treatment* – Immediately call for emergency medical assistance. Remove the victim from the source of heat and cool the victim quickly. If the body temperature is not brought down quickly, permanent brain damage or death may result. Remove all PPE and as much personal clothing as decency permits. Fan the person while sponging or spraying with cool or tepid water. Apply ice packs (if available) to the back of the neck, armpits, groin area, or behind the knees. Place the victim flat on their back or with head and shoulders slightly elevated. If conscious, and not nauseated or vomiting, the victim may be provided sips of cool water. Do not give the victim coffee, tea, or alcoholic beverages. Emergency medical personnel will take over treatment when they arrive.

### **Recognition and Risk Assessment**

In the planning stages of a project, the potential for heat stress disorders must be considered as a physical hazard in the site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP). Risk assessment can be accomplished in the development stages of a project by listing in the HASP the most likely heat stress disorders that may occur. The Field Safety Officer (FSO) must make decisions on the proper safety procedures and recommend them to the site manager. Each worker must evaluate the risk associated with his or her work and be actively alert to these hazards. Any site worker may stop work if safety procedures are not

followed or the risk is too great. In addition, all site personnel must be aware of these symptoms in both themselves and their co-workers.

### **Prevention and Protection Programs**

Heat stress is affected by several interacting factors including, but not limited to, age, obesity, physical condition, substance abuse, level of personal protective equipment (PPE) worn, and environmental conditions (temperature, shade, and humidity). Site workers must learn to recognize and treat the various forms of heat stress. The following recommendations should be followed to prevent heat stress:

- The most important measure to prevent heat-related illness is adequate fluid intake. Workers should drink 1/2 to 1 quarts of liquids per hour in high heat conditions. Most of this liquid should be water. Under heavy work and heat conditions, the body may lose up to 2 gallons of fluids per day. To prevent heat stress symptoms, the individual must ensure replacement of this fluid.
- Provide disposable cups that hold about 4 ounces, and water that is maintained at 50 to 60°F. Workers should drink 16 ounces of water before beginning work, and a cup or two at each break period.
- Provide a shaded area for rest breaks. Ensure that adequate shelter is available to protect personnel against heat and direct sunlight. When possible, shade the work area.
- Discourage the intake of caffeinated drinks during working hours.
- Monitor for signs of heat stress.
- Encourage workers to maintain a good diet during these periods. In most cases, a balanced diet and lightly salted foods should help maintain the body's electrolyte balance. Bananas are especially good for maintaining the body's potassium level.
- If utilizing commercial electrolyte mixes, double the amount of water called for in the package directions. Indications are that "full-strength" preparations taken under high heat stress conditions may actually decrease the body's electrolytes.
- Acclimate workers to site work conditions by slowly increasing workloads (i.e., do not begin work activities with extremely demanding tasks).
- Rotate shifts of workers who are required to wear impervious clothing in hot weather.
- Encourage workers to wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- In extremely hot weather, conduct field activities in the early morning and evening.
- Provide cooling devices to aid natural body heat regulation. These devices, however, add weight and their use should be balanced against worker efficiency. An example of a cooling aid is long cotton underwear, which acts as a wick to absorb moisture and protect the skin from direct contact with heat-absorbing protective clothing.
- Good hygienic standards must be maintained by frequent showering and changes of clothing.
- Clothing should be permitted to dry during rest periods.
- Whenever working in the sun, provide employees with sunscreen with both UVA and UVB protection.
- Persons who notice skin problems should immediately consult medical personnel.



## Heat Stress Monitoring and Work Cycle Management

When strenuous field activities are part of on-going site work conducted in hot weather, the following guidelines should be used to monitor the body's physiological response to heat, and to manage the work cycle, even if workers are not wearing impervious clothing. These procedures should be instituted when the temperature exceeds 70°F and the tasks/risk analysis indicates an increased risk of heat stress problems. Consult the HASP and a safety professional (e.g., Division EHS Manager, FSO) if questions arise as to the need for specific heat stress monitoring. In all cases, the site personnel must be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat stress and provide adequate rest breaks and proper aid as necessary.

Measure Heart Rate – Heart rate should be measured by the radial pulse for 30 seconds as early as possible in the rest period. The heart rate at the beginning of the rest period should not exceed 110 beats per minute. If the heart rate is higher, the next work period should be shortened by 33%, while the length of the rest period stays the same. If the pulse rate still exceeds 110 beats per minute at the beginning of the next rest period, the following work cycle should be further shortened by 33%. The procedure is continued until the rate is maintained below 110 beats per minute.

Measure Body Temperature – When ambient temperatures are over 90°F, body temperatures should be measured with a clinical thermometer as early as possible in the rest period. If the oral temperature exceeds 99.6°F (or 1 degree change from baseline) at the beginning of the rest period, the following work cycle should be shortened by 33%. The procedure is continued until the body temperature is maintained below 99.6°F (or 1 degree change from baseline). Under no circumstances should a worker be allowed to work if their oral temperature exceeds 100.6°F.

Measure Body Water Loss – Body water loss greater than 1.5% of total body weight is indicative of a heat stress condition. Body weight is measured before PPE is donned and after the PPE is removed following a work cycle. Body water loss can be measured with an ordinary bathroom scale; however, the scale must be sensitive to one-half pounds increments. A worker is required to drink additional fluids and rest if their body water loss is greater than 1.5%.

**NOTE:** For purposes of this operating practice, a break is defined as a 15-minute period and/or until an individual's vital signs are within prescribed guidelines.

A physiological monitoring schedule is determined by following the steps below:

- Measure the air temperature with a standard thermometer.
- Estimate the fraction of sunshine by judging what percent the sun is out (refer to Table 1).
- Calculate the adjusted temperature based on the following formula:  
$$\text{Adjusted Temperature} = \text{Actual Temperature} + 13 \times X \text{ (where } X = \text{sunshine fraction from Table 1)}$$
- Using Table 2, determine the physiological monitoring schedule for fit and acclimated workers for the calculated adjusted temperature.

The length of work period is governed by frequency of physiological monitoring (Table 2). The length of the rest period is governed by physiological parameters (heart rate and oral temperature).

**Table 1. Percent Sunshine Factors  
Heat Stress Prevention and Monitoring**

Percent Sunshine (%)	Cloud Cover	Sunshine fraction
100	No cloud cover	1.0
50	50% cloud cover	0.5
0	Full cloud cover	0.0

**Table 2. Physiological Monitoring Schedule  
Heat Stress Prevention and Monitoring**

Adjusted Temperature	Level D (Permeable clothing)	Level C, B, or A (Nonpermeable clothing)
90°F (32.2°C) or above	After each 45 minutes of work	After each 15 minutes of work
87.5°F (30.8° - 32.2°C)	After each 60 minutes of work	After each 30 minutes of work
82.5° - 87.5°F (28.1° - 32.2°C)	After each 90 minutes of work	After each 60 minutes of work
77.5° - 82.5°F (25.3° - 28.1°C)	After each 120 minutes of work	After each 90 minutes of work
72.5° - 77.5°F (22.5° - 25.3°C)	After each 150 minutes of work	After each 120 minutes of work

**Example:** Site personnel anticipate wearing level C (impermeable clothing) during site activities. The air temperature is 80°F and there are no clouds in the sky (100% sunshine). The adjusted temperature is calculated in the following manner:

Adjusted Temperature (Adj T °F) = Actual Temperature (Amb T °F) + (13 x sunshine fraction)

Adj T °F = 80°F + (13 x 1.0)

Adj T °F = 93°F

Using Table 2, the pulse rate, oral temperature and body water loss monitoring would be conducted after each 15 minutes of work. The adjusted temperature may need to be redetermined if the percent sunshine and ambient temperature changes drastically during site work.

If an individual's heart rate exceeds 110 beats per minute at the beginning of the rest period, that individual will continue to rest until his or her heart rate drops to baseline; the next work period is then decreased by 33%.

## **FLD 11 ROUGH TERRAIN/ATV USE**

### **RELATED FLDs**

*FLD 02 – Inclement Weather*

*FLD 05 – Heat Stress Prevention and Monitoring*

*FLD 06 – Cold Stress*

*FLD 22 – Heavy Equipment Operation*

*FLD 47 – Clearing, Grubbing, and Logging Operations*

*FLD 57 – Motor Vehicle Safety*

### **HAZARD**

Physical hazards associated with rough terrain include vehicle accidents, heavy equipment incidents, falling, slipping, and tripping.

Driving vehicles on uneven surfaces creates a possibility of the vehicle rolling, getting stuck in mud or ditches, or of an accident due to flat tires or striking obstacles and other vehicles.

When working on foot, steep inclines and heavy or downed vegetation can hide holes or breaks in the terrain, increasing the risk of slips, trips, and falls.

### **RECOGNITION AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

Rough terrain complicates work activities and adds to or increases risk. In the planning stages of a project, rough terrain must be considered as a physical hazard and identified in the site-specific health and safety plan (HASP). Risk assessment is usually accomplished from site history information (i.e., site topography) and on site by the Field Safety Officer (FSO).

### **HAZARD PREVENTION AND PROTECTION PROGRAMS**

#### **Safety on Foot**

Personnel working on rough terrain should maintain a high level of physical conditioning due to increased body stress and exertion.

The site crew should be alert and observe terrain while walking to minimize slips, trips, and falls.

Boots should be ankle high or higher to provide additional support and stability.

Work will be completed in adequate natural light or sufficient illumination will be maintained.

Site personnel will conduct an initial walkover and the “buddy system” will be implemented.

Emergency communications such as a cell phone or two-way radio should be carried at all times.

Personnel should be aware of potential hazards and ensure the availability of first-aid supplies and knowledge of the location of the nearest medical assistance.

#### **VEHICLE SAFETY**

Vehicle drivers and passengers will wear seatbelts at all times.

Hazards can be prevented by ensuring regular maintenance is performed on vehicles and all safety features are working. Have brakes and wheel bearings of vehicles used off road or in four wheel drive inspected at increased frequency (suggest inspections at twice the manufacturer's recommended frequency).

In order to minimize accidents, site surveillance on foot may be required to ensure clear driving paths.

Minimize side hill travel. Travel straight up and down hills whenever possible. Passengers will not be allowed when side hill travel is required.

Take into account loads or superstructure of vehicles which raise the center of gravity and increase risk of tipping.

Cross streams, small logs or other passable (there is adequate clearance of the undercarriage) obstructions at right angles.

Four wheel drive vehicles should be used if terrain conditions are wet, frozen, broken, or otherwise deemed unsafe for two wheel drive vehicles by the FSO. Use of vehicles off-road will be specifically addressed in the HASP and personnel operating vehicles will be checked for proficiency.

- Before moving a vehicle in the field, first walk the route of travel, inspecting for depressions, stumps, gullies, ruts, and similar obstacles.
- Always check the brakes of a vehicle before traveling, particularly on rough, uneven, or hilly ground.
- Check the complete drive train of a carrier at least weekly for loose or damaged bolts, nuts, studs, shafts, and mountings.
- Engage the all wheel drive when traveling off highway on hilly terrain.
- Increase tire pressures before traveling in hilly terrain (do not exceed rated tire pressure).
- Use the assistance of someone on the ground as a guide when lateral or overhead clearance is close.
- After the vehicle/equipment has been moved to a new site, set all brakes and/or locks. When grades are steep, block the wheels.

## **Definitions**

**Class I, All-terrain vehicle (ATV):** A motorized off-highway vehicle, 50 in. (127 cm) or less in width, having dry weight of 800 lbs (362.9 kg) or less, and traveling on three or more low pressure tires (10 lbs [4.5 kg] psi or less), with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator.

**Class I, Category G, ATV:** An ATV intended for general recreational and utility use.

**Class I, Category U, ATV:** An ATV intended primarily for utility use.

**Class II, ATV:** A motorized off-highway vehicle with a width which exceeds 50 in. (127 cm) or having a dry weight that exceeds 800 lbs (362.9 kg), traveling on four or more low-profile, low-pressure tires (10 lbs [4.5 kg] psi or less) and having a bench seat.

**NOTE:** Utility Vehicles are designed to perform off-road utility tasks such as passenger and cargo transportation and are addressed separately below. Examples are Rangers, Rhino, M-Gators, Gators, and Mules.

Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS). A cab or frame that provides a safe environment for the tractor operator in the event of a rollover.

## **ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVS)**

### **Qualifications**

ATV operators will have completed a nationally recognized accredited ATV training course (such as provided by the Specialty Vehicles Institute of America or in-house resources that have been certified as trainers by an accredited organization) prior to operation of the vehicle.

The operator must pass an operating skills test prior to being allowed to operate an ATV. Proof of completion of this training will be maintained.

### **Equipment**

All ATVs shall be equipped with:

- An operable audible warning device (horn);
- Headlights (if it will be used during hours of darkness);
- Taillights; and
- Brake lights.
- Mufflers and spark arresters.

All Class II ATVs will be equipped with ROPS and seatbelts

### **Operation**

Only Class I and Class II ATVs with four or more wheels may be used. Class III ATV's may not be used.

The manufacturer's recommended payload will not be exceeded at any time.

Gloves and an approved motorcycle helmet with full-face shield or goggles will be worn at all times while operating a Class I ATV.

An ATV will not be driven on public roadways except to cross the roadway, and it will only be driven on a public roadway at designated crossing points or with a road guard (no paved road use unless allowed by the manufacturer).

A copy of the operator's manual will be kept on the vehicle and protected from the elements (if practicable).

Tires shall be inflated to the pressures recommended by the manufacturer.

Passengers are prohibited on Class I ATVs.

## UTILITY VEHICLES

Utility vehicles are defined as specialty Class II ATVs designed to perform off-road utility tasks such as passenger and cargo transportation. Examples are Rangers, Rhino, M-Gators, Gators, and Mules.

Utility vehicle operators shall be trained and familiar with the use of all controls; understand proper moving, stopping, turning and other operating characteristics of the vehicle. Operators must review all training materials provided by the manufacturer for the specific vehicles, and training should be in accordance with appropriate manufacturer recommendations. A copy of the operator's manual shall be kept on the vehicle at all times and protected from the elements. At a minimum, training should address:

- Basic riding tips from the manufacturer's published literature for each vehicle.
- Reading terrain.
- Climbing hilly terrain.
- Descending a hill.
- Traversing a slope.
- Riding through water.
- Cargo carriers and accessories.
- Loading and unloading.
- Troubleshooting.
- Proper preventative maintenance, (i.e., oil levels, tire pressure requirements and scheduled maintenance requirements according to the manufacturer's guidelines.).

Utility vehicles shall be equipped with:

- Operable audible warning device (horn).
- Headlights.
- Taillights.
- Brake lights.
- Seatbelts.
- ROPS.

Occupancy in utility vehicles is limited to manufacturer designated seating that has built-in seatbelts. Passengers may not ride in the vehicle's back cargo area unless the vehicle is otherwise equipped. Note: When used for emergency response, medical litters may be placed in the back cargo area but must be secured as described below.

The manufacturer's recommended load carrying capacity, personnel capacity, or maximum safe vehicle speed shall not be exceeded at any time.

Cargo items will be secured as necessary to prevent movement/tipping. All loads over fifty pounds (to include medical litters) must be securely strapped to cargo tie-downs in the rear and to the cargo shelf in the front.

Seatbelts will be worn by operators and passengers of specialty vehicles where installed by the manufacturer. Operators and passengers shall wear goggles at all times when a utility vehicle, not equipped with a windshield, is in motion.

Utility vehicles will not normally be driven on public roadways except to cross the roadway, and will only be driven on a public roadway at designated crossing points or with a road guard. Utility vehicles that are allowed to operate outside a controlled work area and/or on public roads will meet the minimum vehicle safety standards in accordance with 49 CFR 571.5, to include ROPs, seatbelts and placement of “Slow Moving Vehicle” emblems where required.

Manufacturer-installed safety equipment will be maintained in working order and used in compliance with the requirement of this regulation and in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.

## **RULES**

Observe the following practices to help prevent accidents:

- Do not misuse utility vehicles.
- Reduce speed and exercise extreme caution on slopes or on rough ground.
- Do not overload vehicle and avoid shifting loads. Reduce load when operating over rough or hilly terrain.
- Do not stop or start suddenly when going uphill or downhill. Be especially cautious when changing direction on slopes.
- Stay alert for holes, rocks, and other hidden hazards in the terrain.
- Keep away from drop-offs, ditches, embankments, as well as ponds and other bodies of water. The machine could suddenly turn over if a wheel is over the edge of a cliff or ditch, or if an edge caves in.
- Keep front wheels straight at crest of hill or going over bumps.
- When descending a hill, remove foot from accelerator and apply brakes to reduce speed and maintain control.

## **Transport Loads Safely**

- Be sure load is evenly distributed.
- Do not load above the load guard.
- Securely anchor all loads in cargo box.
- Reduce cargo box capacity when operating on rough or hilly terrain.
- Use existing trails. Avoid terrain such as dangerous slopes and impassable swamps. Watch carefully for sharp bumps, holes, ruts, or obstacles.
- Look ahead at terrain. Know what is coming and be prepared to react. Be alert for hazards.
- Keep front wheels straight at the crest of a hill or going over bumps.
- Reduce speed according to trail, terrain, and visibility conditions.
- The passenger should always use the hand holds.

## **FLD 31 FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION PLANNING**

Fire prevention and protection are key elements to any activity conducted. This FLD focuses on the understanding of fire hazards, protection and equipment options available for use, minimal inspection requirements for equipment and worksites, guidance on limiting fire hazards, training, and site-specific planning. The objectives of this program are to ensure that personnel can understand the hazards associated with fires, how to prevent fires from occurring, and how to act safely and appropriately in the event of a fire emergency.

### **RELATED FLDs AND PLANS**

*FLD 32 – Fire Extinguishers Required and Requirements*  
*Emergency Response Plan*  
*Health and Safety Plan*

### **RESPONSE ACTIONS**

In case of fire, immediately take the following actions:

- Evacuate the building or area in accordance with the evacuation plan. Activate fire alarms if they have not already been activated.
  - Use nearest exit.
  - Do not use elevators.
  - Close all doors behind you.
- Dial 911 or the established Fire Emergency Number from a safe location.
  - Indicate what is happening, location of fire, if any injuries.
  - Comply with requests from the 911 operator for information.
  - Do not hang up with the operator until told to do so by the operator, or they hang up first.

Upon completion of emergency phase comply with incident notification procedures.

**NOTE:** If the fire is small and manageable with fire extinguishing equipment at hand, and provided you are trained in the use of this equipment, you may make the decision to use this equipment while waiting for advanced assistance. Never place yourself in danger, always have a plan for escape, and never attempt to fight a fire if there are any doubts about the type of fire or your ability to successfully fight the fire. Never allow the fire to get between you and your escape route.

### **LIFE SAFETY**

- All workers are required to follow the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and Health and Safety Plan (HASP) developed for the respective work location.
- Exit signs must be visible from all areas of a room.
- All exits maintained unobstructed, unblocked, and unlocked.
- Egress pathways maintained per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 101. In no event less than 28 inches wide.



- Adequate and reliable illumination must be available.
- Provisions must be made within local EAPs to assist any potentially physically challenged personnel or visitors.

## **FIRE PROTECTION (EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURES)**

### **Classes of Fire**

- Class A: Combustibles (e.g., wood, paper, cloth).
- Class B: Flammable and combustible liquids, gasses and greases.
- Class C: Denotes presence of electrical and energized electrical equipment.
- Class D: Combustible metals
- Class K: Combustible cooking media (e.g., oils and greases).

### **Type(s) of Fire Protection Equipment or Systems**

The following types of systems are typically used in most occupancy. In the event a different system is installed or anticipated, contact Environmental Compliance, Health, and Safety (EHS) Staff for assistance.

- Fixed Systems
  - Sprinkler Systems: Keep heat sources and dust generating sources away from sprinkler heads. Allow a minimum of 18 inches clearance below the sprinkler head. Do not paint sprinkler heads. Maintain working clearance around sprinkler control valves. Ensure that system tests are conducted in accordance with local fire code requirements.
  - Fire Hydrants and Fire Lanes: Ensure that clearance for fire fighting equipment (trucks) and fire fighters is maintained in fire lanes and around hydrants. Do not use fire hydrants for any purpose other than fire fighting unless express approval is obtained from the local fire department.
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
  - Selecting: Ensure that portable fire extinguishers are appropriate for the class and size of potential fire. Selection will be based on the more restrictive requirements of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NFPA, or Local fire code. Contact EHS staff for assistance as necessary.
  - Training and Education: In accordance with 29 CFR 1910.157 and NFPA Standard 10, WESTON will provide portable fire extinguisher general use education, routine inspection guidelines, and incipient fire hazard recognition and prevention training to all new employees upon initial employment and at least annually thereafter. The portable fire extinguisher training education will be documented and a record of that training will be maintained on file for a period of at least one year. Only persons who have been trained may use portable fire extinguishers.
  - Maintenance and Inspection: Maintenance and inspection will be in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.157 and NFPA Standard 10. Each portable fire extinguisher inspection documentation/tags shall include the fire extinguisher type and/or identifier, the person inspecting, date of the routine inspection, date of last recharge, and the date of the annual maintenance check by a qualified person. Each portable fire extinguisher shall document at least a monthly visual inspection by a trained inspector and shall consist of the following:

- Annual maintenance check.
- Appropriate pressure charge.
- Clean and clear discharge port or hose used in lieu thereof.
- Pressure handle pin in place and secured.
- Extinguisher properly mounted.
- Extinguisher properly identified
- Each inspection period to include both annual and routine inspections for active and stored portable fire extinguishers will be documented and documentation will be maintained on file for a period of at least one year after the last entry or the life of the shell, whichever is less. The inspection and maintenance record will be available to the assistant secretary of OSHA, or any other responsible authority upon request.
- Alarm Systems
  - Fixed alarm systems are to be installed, maintained, and tested by approved vendors.
  - In the event of a fire emergency alarm, immediately evacuate.
- Fire Doors
  - All doors designated as fire doors are to remain closed.
  - In the event of a fire, close (but do not lock) all doors while evacuating.

### **Incident Notifications and Actions**

**Any** discharge of a portable or fixed fire extinguishing system requires Notice of Incident (NOI) reporting. Discharged extinguishers are to be replaced immediately by acceptable units and the discharged units submitted for testing and recharge.

### **Responsibilities**

#### EHS Staff

- Assists management in determining appropriate numbers and types of fire protection equipment and/or systems based upon site or building criteria.
- Verifies through inspection that fire extinguishers and systems are properly selected, used, and maintained.
- Provides technical assistance to management and reviews plans to ensure that fire hazards are limited.

#### Management (OU, Office, Project, and Site)

- Ensure that occupancies have appropriate numbers and types of fire protection equipment and/or systems.
- Ensure that required inspections of equipment and systems are conducted.
- Ensure that any deficiencies in equipment or systems are corrected in a timely manner without impact to overall fire protection of occupancy.

- Designates a person or persons to be responsible for the selection, purchase, repair or replacement of portable fire extinguishers and as necessary, other fire protection systems for site or building/occupancies.
- Ensures, as appropriate, that personnel are trained in the use of portable fire extinguishers.
- Ensure that all affected personnel are trained in the EAP and evacuation procedures.
- Notifies EHS staff and others, as appropriate, prior to building modifications, site activities, or other tasks that impact fire prevention and protection.
- Ensures that flammable and combustible materials are used and maintained in a safe manner.
- Ensures that housekeeping is routinely conducted.
- Ensures that heat producing materials and equipment are properly rated, used, and maintained.

#### All Personnel

- Take all appropriate measures to limit fire hazards.
- Report all fires.
- Evacuate as trained and directed in the event of an emergency.
- Do not prop open fire doors.
- Keep exits and exit ways clean, clear, and unblocked.
- Take all appropriate measures to limit fire hazards.
- Use and store flammable and combustible materials appropriately.

### **FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION (LIMITING HAZARDS)**

#### **Flammable and Combustible Materials (liquids, gases)**

- Flammable materials must be properly labeled, stored, handled, and used.
- No smoking or use of open flame-producing devices within 50 feet of flammable and combustible materials.
- Obtain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all flammable materials in use and ensure all personnel are aware of hazards.
- All containers are to be properly labeled with contents, the word Flammable, and in accordance with hazard communication requirements.
- Store materials in well ventilated areas that are free of ignition sources and flame or sparks.
- Ensure that incompatible materials are stored in remote locations from each other (e.g., keep flammables from oxidizers).
- Limit quantities to minimum required.
- Store cylinders in upright and secure positions.
- Bond and ground containers as (and where) necessary.
- Use proper storage cabinets for flammable and combustible materials. Contact EHS Staff for assistance.

- Use only approved containers.
- Use and dispense only in well-ventilated areas.

### **Combustible Materials (solids)**

- Solid combustible materials include; wood, paper, and cloth. Proper housekeeping reduces concerns for combustion of these materials. Use proper receptacles for disposal and dispose of routinely.

### **Oxidizers**

- An oxidizer is a substance that increases the flammability of materials, allowing them to burn easier. Examples include; pure oxygen, chlorine, ammonium nitrate. Store oxidizers in a remote location from flammable and combustible materials.

### **Electric Appliances**

- Do not use electric appliances near flammable or combustible materials. Never place an appliance on an unstable surface. Use on UL or FM approved appliances. Follow the manufactures recommendations or requirements for use and maintenance. Obtain approval from EHS staff prior to purchase and use of portable heater units in office settings. Do not leave portable heaters on and unattended.

### **Hot Work Permits**

- A permit is required for any “hot” work such as; welding, brazing, and cutting or the use of an open flame device (other than that by an FM or UL approved device used in accordance with manufacture’s requirements).
- Hot work permits will be issued by local or site EHS staff, or as designated by project management. Permits are typically associated with one task and for one shift. At the discretion of local EHS personnel, permits may be authorized for longer periods.

### **Smoking**

- Smoking is prohibited indoors. Smoking is only allowed in outdoor, designated areas. Smokers are to maintain smoking areas in a clean and safe condition. Ensure that receptacles for disposal of cigarettes and other smoking materials are appropriately constructed, free of combustible debris and when necessary, are cool before emptying into waste receptacles.

### **Housekeeping**

- All personnel are responsible for keeping work areas free of combustible materials and debris.
- Weeds and grass must be properly maintained to limit potential fire hazard.

## **FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

OSHA outlines minimum requirements for emergency evacuation planning and fire prevention plans (see [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)). Site-specific HASPs are developed to implement these requirements.

For evacuation planning, the minimum requirements are:

- Description of routes and procedures to follow.
- Procedures for accounting of personnel.
- Procedures for evacuation of physically impaired employees where necessary.
- Procedures for those employees who must remain temporarily behind to shut down critical equipment before they evacuate.
- Alerting systems must be identified.

Training must be conducted for all employees on what to do in the event of an evacuation emergency.

### **Climbing or Descending a Hill**

- Always use the brakes when going down slopes, the utility vehicle can speed up (freewheel) going down a slope. Engine or clutch braking effect is minimal.
- Balance loads evenly and secure them. Braking could shift the load and affect vehicle stability.
- Sit on the center of the seat and keep both feet within the foot platform.
- Never drive past the limit of visibility. Slow down near the crest of a hill until getting a clear view of the other side.
- If the vehicle stops or loses power going up a hill, lock the park brake to hold the vehicle on slope. Maintain direction of travel and release the brake slowly. Back straight down hill slowly while maintaining control. Do not turn the vehicle sideways. The vehicle is more stable in a straight forward or rearward position.
- If the utility vehicle begins to tip, turn the front wheel downhill to gain control before proceeding.

### **Riding Through Water**

- Avoid water whenever possible. If the drive belt becomes wet, slippage will occur and the vehicle will lose power.
- Never cross any body of water where the depth may be unknown to the operator. As an operational guideline, deep water is considered anything in excess of 152 mm (6 in.) in depth. Tires may float, making it difficult to maintain control.
- Choose a course within the waterway where both banks have a gradual incline. Cross at a point known to be safe.
- Proceed at a slow steady speed to avoid submerged obstacles and slippery rocks.
- Avoid water crossings where the operation of a utility vehicle may cause damage to waterway beds or erode waterway shoreline.

## **FLD 32 FIRE EXTINGUISHERS REQUIRED AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **RELATED FLDs**

*FLD 03 – Hot Processes - Steam, Low Temperature, Thermal Treatment Unit, and Transportable Incinerator*

*FLD 21 – Explosives*

*FLD 22 – Heavy Equipment Operation*

*FLD 30 – Hazardous Materials Use and Storage*

*FLD 31 – Fire Prevention and Protection Planning*

*FLD 36 – Welding/Cutting/Burning*

Fire extinguishers are a key component of fire fighting. Small fires that are small can be effectively fought with properly selected and correctly located extinguishers. The Fire Department should be notified as soon as a fire is discovered, and should not be delayed by awaiting the results of the application of portable fire extinguishers.

The successful use of fire extinguishers, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 10, depends on the following conditions having been met:

1. The fire extinguisher is properly located and in working order.
2. The fire extinguisher is of the proper type for a fire that can occur.
3. The fire is discovered while still small enough for the fire extinguisher to be effective.
4. The fire is discovered by a person ready, willing, and able to use the fire extinguisher.

To select an appropriate fire extinguisher, the situation must be considered for the type of fires anticipated (based on flammable and/or combustible sources on site), the facility construction, the anticipated hazard level, as well as the ambient air temperature conditions.

### **FIRE TYPES**

To determine the types of fires anticipated on site, NFPA classifies fires by type:

- Class A Fires – Fires in ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, and many plastics.
- Class B Fires – Fires in flammable liquids, combustible liquids, petroleum greases, tars, oil-based solvents, lacquers, alcohols, and flammable gases.
- Class C Fires – Fires that involve energized electrical equipment.
- Class D Fires – Fires in combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, lithium, and potassium.
- Class K Fires – Fires in cooking appliances that involve combustible cooking media (vegetable or animal oils and fats).

Corresponding to the types of fires, fire extinguishers are labeled to match fire types. Extinguishers suitable for Class A fires should be identified by a triangle containing the letter “A,” and green (if colored). Extinguishers suitable for Class B fires should be identified by a square containing the letter “B,” and red (if colored). Extinguishers suitable for Class C fires should be identified by a circle containing the letter “C,” and blue (if colored). Extinguishers suitable for Class D fires should be identified by a 5-pointed star containing the letter “D,” and yellow (if colored).

## **HAZARD CLASSIFICATION**

NFPA 10 classifies hazards on three levels; Light (Low), Ordinary (Moderate), and Extra (Heavy) Hazards.

### **Light Hazard**

Light (Low) hazard areas constitute locations where the total amount of Class A combustible materials is of minor quantity. This assumes that the majority of the items are either noncombustible or arranged so that fire is not likely to spread rapidly. An example of this hazard level would be an office setting. Small amounts of Class B flammables are included in this hazard level, provided that they are kept in closed containers, and appropriately stored.

### **Ordinary Hazard**

Ordinary (Moderate) hazard areas are locations where the total amount of Class A combustibles and Class B flammables are present in greater amounts than expected in Light hazard areas. Examples of these areas are dining areas, light manufacturing, workshops and support service areas of Light hazard occupancies.

### **Extra Hazard**

Extra (Heavy) hazard areas are locations where the total amount of Class A combustibles and Class B flammables present in storage, production, use, and finished product (or combination thereof) is above areas of Ordinary hazard. These areas include woodworking, vehicle repair, cooking areas, and storage and manufacturing processes.

## **FIRE EXTINGUISHER RATINGS**

The classification and rating system describing fire extinguishers is that of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. The class ratings correspond to the various fire types (A, B, C, D, and K), and the numerical value in front of the class rating dictates the size of fire it can extinguish. In principle, a 2-A fire extinguisher can extinguish twice as much fire as a 1-A; a 20-A fire extinguisher can extinguish 20 times as much fire. Each class rating has its own extinguishing media and corresponding volume. A 1-A fire extinguisher is the equivalent of 1¼ gallons of water, for reference.

Class B extinguishers can have gallons of foam, pounds of carbon dioxide, or pounds of a dry chemical.

**Note:** A fire extinguisher may be rated to fight the appropriate size fire, but the training and degree of experience of the operator influences this amount.

## **EXTINGUISHER SELECTION**

To select the appropriate number and locations of fire extinguishers throughout a facility, work areas must be evaluated based on a minimum rated single extinguisher (dictated by hazard level), the maximum floor area per unit of Class A hazards, the maximum floor area for the extinguisher, and the maximum distance of travel to the extinguisher.



### Fire Extinguisher Size and Placement for Class A Hazards

Criteria	Light Hazard	Ordinary Hazard	Extra Hazard
Minimum rated single extinguisher	2-A	2-A	4-A
Maximum floor area per unit of Class A hazards	3,000 square feet	1,500 square feet	1,000 square feet
Maximum floor area for extinguisher	11,250 feet	11,250 feet	11,250 feet
Maximum travel distance to extinguisher	75 feet	75 feet	75 feet

### Fire Extinguisher Size and Placement for Class B Hazards

Type of Hazard	Basic Minimum Extinguisher Rating	Maximum Travel Distance to Extinguishers (feet)
Light	5-B	30
	10-B	50
Ordinary	10-B	30
	20-B	50
Heavy	40-B	30
	80-B	50

## INSPECTION

Fire extinguishers shall be inspected when initially placed into service, and every 30 days thereafter. More frequent intervals can be maintained, should the situation require. Inspections should document the following:

1. Location in designated place
2. Obstructions to access or visibility
3. Operating instructions legible (with nameplate facing outwards)
4. Safety seals and tamper indicators intact
5. Fullness determined by weighing ("hefting" is acceptable)
6. Examination for obvious physical damage, corrosion, leakage, and clogged nozzle
7. Pressure gauge in the operable range or position
8. HMIS label in place

## SERVICING

Only trained personnel can perform maintenance, servicing, and recharging of fire extinguishers. Trained personnel will have the appropriate tools, manuals, recharge materials, lubricants, and manufacturer's replacement parts specifically listed for use in the fire extinguisher.

## **PROCEDURE**

Fire extinguishers appropriate in size and classification shall be present, readily accessible, and ready for use in all areas where there is potential for fires.

Fire extinguishers must be used in conjunction with an emergency response or contingency plan.

Health and Safety Plans must identify number, type, and location of all fire extinguishers related to a specific project.

## FLD 34 UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

### REFERENCES

29 CFR 1926.651, *Specific Excavation Requirements*  
ANSI Standard Z 535.1, *American National Standard for Safety Color Code*

### RELATED FLDs

*FLD 42 – Lockout/Tagout*

This Field Operation Procedure (FLD) provides requirements for identification, location, and avoidance of underground utilities, appurtenances, and structures during intrusive activities. These requirements are applicable to all Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON) operations. The procedures address the requirements and recommendations for identifying and locating, working around, and encountering or contacting underground utilities. The FLD also addresses actions to be taken in response to encountering or contacting underground utilities.

### DEFINITIONS

#### **Aggressive Methods**

The use of mechanized equipment such as (but not limited to) excavators, backhoes, drill rigs, directional drilling, Geoprobe operations (including all direct push techniques), or road saws.

#### **Buffer Zone**

As defined in this procedure, the area around a utility where only non-aggressive excavation methods may be utilized, unless specific conditions are met.

The definition cited above, and the excavation requirements and restrictions associated with it, will vary depending on the particular state regulations. WESTON requires the imposition of a **three-foot** Buffer Zone on all sides of the utility as measured from the outside edges of the utility, both horizontally and vertically. State and/or local buffer zone requirements must be verified by consulting the applicable state regulations in the event buffer zones greater than three feet are required.

The term “Buffer Zone” may be referred to as the “Tolerance Zone”, “Safety Zone”, or “Approximate Location of Underground Utilities” in some jurisdictions.

#### **Competent Person**

A Competent Person has the ability to recognize hazards associated with underground utilities and the authority to stop or direct operations to ensure the safety of personnel and conformance with this procedure. The Competent Person has an understanding of this procedure, and the “One-Call” system requirements for the jurisdiction where excavation is occurring. The Competent Person must be capable of notifying One-Call agencies and maintaining and tracking One-Call Locate Numbers. Additionally, they must have knowledge of methods and work practices for excavation work and the identification, avoidance, and protection of underground utilities.

The designation of a Competent Person will be made by the Site Manager (SM) or Project Manager (PM) and documented in the site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) or attachment to the HASP. Each WESTON Competent Person is required to successfully complete WESTON’s internal training program on the use and application of this FLD and possess appropriate and relevant field experience.

The names of Subcontractor Competent Persons will be documented in the Site-Specific *Subcontractor Acknowledgment: Supervisor Personnel, Competence of Personnel, and Task Understanding* form. Subcontractor Competent Persons will be expected to follow this FLD or their company's procedures, whichever is more restrictive.

### **Damage**

Damage may be considered as any undesired impact or unanticipated removal of support from an underground utility as a result of excavation or demolition. Damage may be as simple as minor contact (by any means) resulting in displacement of protective coating. The utility owner must be contacted regarding any damage or question of damage.

### **De-Energize**

As applicable to a utility, to physically eliminate and/or prevent the presence, transmission, flow, or release of energy or materials which may cause harm to personnel or property.

### **Excavation (Intrusive Activity)**

An operation using mechanized equipment for the purpose of movement or removal of earth, rock, or the materials in the ground, including but not limited to: digging, blasting, augering, test boring, drilling, pile driving, directional drilling, grading, plowing-in, hammering (including hammer-drill soil gas sampling tube installation), pulling-in, jacking-in, trenching, tunneling, structural demolition, milling, scraping, tree and root removal (grubbing), and fence or sign post installation. Note that in some States or jurisdictions, excavation may include hand augering or use of other hand tools.

### **Jurisdiction**

The Authority having legal jurisdiction for establishing and/or enforcing regulations and requirements for notification of excavation activities and associated identification and marking of underground utilities. In the United States, the States have jurisdiction, and most consider the regulations applicable when excavation is to be performed in any location, including any public or private way, any company right-of-way or easement, or any public or privately owned land or way. Note: One caveat to remember – Jurisdiction may flow to the “owner” on private or government-owned property because the State One-Call Agencies may not clear utilities on such facilities.

Note that easement boundaries may require differing methods for compliance assurance. Railroads and certain above ground utilities have easements that require specific procedures for excavation (including shoring and shielding of both the utility as well as for the track and/or poles). In these cases it may be required that an inspector or representative of the railroad or utility is present at all phases of the activity.

### **Locate**

To indicate the existence of a utility by establishing a mark through the use of flags, pins, stakes, paint, or some other customary manner, that *approximately* determines the location of a line or facility.

### **Locate Request**

A communication between an entity performing intrusive activities and a utility marking agency (One-Call, etc).

## Non-Aggressive Methods

Non-Aggressive methods involve the use of manual methods such as hand digging with shovels or by potholing or daylighting methods.

## Observer

The person assigned to visually monitor and, as needed, signal the operator during mechanized intrusive activity when the activity is occurring within three feet of the outside edge of the buffer zone. The observer remains in close communication with the equipment operator(s) and will stop the activity if needed.

## One-Call Agency

An entity that administers a system through which a person can notify owners/operators of underground lines or utilities of the intent to perform intrusive activities in proposed public areas. **It is important to note that not all underground utility owners may be required to join the One-Call system. Additionally, some underground utility owners may not comply with State registration requirements.** The SM or Competent Person is responsible to determine additional utilities that may need to be contacted individually.

## Positive Response

Verification prior to the intrusive activity, to ensure that all contacted (typically via the One-Call Agency) owner/operators have located and marked the underground utilities. The SM or Competent Person is responsible to determine/verify ownership of the property where the intrusive activity will occur, including any easements.

## Potholing or Daylighting

The practice of exposing an underground facility by safe, *non-aggressive* excavation methods in order to determine the precise horizontal and vertical position and orientation of underground lines or utilities. potholing or daylighting are terms used to describe the excavating of buried facilities using an air or water “knife” coupled with vacuum excavation that exposes underground utilizes to the “daylight” – a positive and safe means of identification and confirmation of exact utility location.

## Target Rich Environment

Areas where multiple utilities are known or suspected of being located, areas where utility locations are in question and/or difficult to obtain information on, or areas with known or suspect high-risk utilities. **Note: Military Bases (active or inactive) are to be considered “Target Rich Environments”.**

## Underground Utility

An underground or submerged conductor, pipe, or structure used in transporting or providing electric, communications service, gas, oil or oil product, sewage, storm drainage, water, or other service and appurtenances thereto. As used in this procedure, utility includes all underground appurtenances and structures.

The following are examples of the types of underground utilities that may be present in a given location:

- Natural gas pipelines
- Electric cables

- Water pipelines
- Fiber optic telecommunications lines
- Telephone cable lines
- Steam pipelines
- Gasoline, oil, or other fuels
- Sewer pipelines
- Vents for sewer and gasoline/diesel fueling systems
- Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)
- Abandoned underground structures containing hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials

### **Underground Utility Owner**

Any person, utility, municipality, authority, political subdivision or other person or entity who owns, operates, or controls the operation of an underground line/facility.

### **White Lining**

The practice whereby the person (in this case WESTON or a Subcontractor) who intends to perform intrusive activities, pre-marks the site with an outline of the area where intrusive activities will occur. This involves the use of white paint, flags, stakes, or a combination thereof to mark the extent of where work is to be performed. The marking may vary depending on what intrusive activities are to be conducted. For example, for general excavation, an areal outline of the excavation shall be marked, while for drilling, the individual boreholes shall be marked. Studies have shown that pre-marking is a practice that does prevent utility contact incidents. Check State or local regulatory requirements to ensure compliance.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Competent Person**

The Competent Person shall be responsible for:

- Obtaining a copy of, and understanding the applicable regulations for the state of jurisdiction where the excavation activities are to be performed.
- Contacting the appropriate One-Call Agency or private locating service, as applicable.
- Recording One-Call locate numbers.
- If necessary, renewing One-Call locate numbers before expiration.
- Ensuring that white-lining of the area to be excavated is performed; if another equal or better protective measure is necessary because of the nature of the work, state/local regulation, or client requirements, the HASP should be amended to reflect the change.
- Ensuring that a “positive response” has been received from every utility owner/operator identified by the One-Call Agency (and any non-member utility as necessary) and that they have located their underground utilities and have appropriately marked any potential conflicts with the areas of planned intrusive activities prior to the start of intrusive work.

- Ensuring that appropriate means for supporting and protecting any exposed utility have been discussed with the utility owner and such means are available on-site.
- Ensuring that above-ground utilities and other appurtenances will not create a problem, or be impacted by WESTON activities. In all cases provisions for protection of any utility, structure, or appurtenance must be made.
- Ensuring that provisions for emergency actions and emergency shut-off/mitigation of utilities have been discussed with utility owners and field personnel.
- Ensuring that pictures are taken before, during, and after intrusive activities and placing such pictures in the project file. Pictures should provide visual documentation of actual site conditions, including but not limited to exposed utilities, methods used for bracing utilities and markings placed on the surface by utility locating services. Consideration should also include placing of a known object in the picture field to provide a “scale” for size/distance comparison.
- Completion and maintenance of the Underground Utilities Locating and Marking Checklist (Attachment A) and the Underground Utilities Management Checklist (Attachment B).
- Reviewing applicable Activity Hazard Analyses (AHAs) with all project members before work begins.
- Conducting training on communication protocols to be used by the excavation observer and equipment operator.
- Ensuring implementation of appropriate work practices during intrusive activities (including maintaining the prescribed buffer zone for use of aggressive methods).
- Conducting daily or more frequent (due to changes in conditions) inspections of the excavation area to make sure that all markings are intact.
- Providing the Field Safety Officer (FSO) with all required documentation on a daily basis.

## Observer

Whenever intrusive operations with mechanized equipment are being conducted *within three feet of the outside edge of the buffer zone*, horizontally and vertically, an observer must be assigned to monitor the activities. The observer is responsible for:

- Maintaining a safe vantage point relative to digging machinery, excavation edge, and proximity to the hazard posed by the utility.
- Observing the operation to ensure that the operator stops operations if utilities are observed.
- Reviewing hand signals and other forms of communication with the operator. Note: hand signals should be as those identified under ANSI, OSHA, or the Corps of Engineers for Crane Hand Signals, or another, equally effective and understood system.
- Properly signaling the operator.
- Stopping the operation immediately if the observer’s attention must be diverted even momentarily.
- Stopping the operation immediately if a hand signal or other directive is not followed. Operations will not resume until the observer and operator mutually agree that the reason(s) for not complying with the directive(s) are/is identified and fully corrected.
- Maintaining required records, such as logbook entries, or other, as requested by line management.

## Line Management

The PM or SM shall be responsible for:

- Establishing the site culture with the assistance of the FSO that ensures compliance with this FLD, as well as providing the leadership to “do the right thing” whenever unanticipated circumstances arise.
- Providing the necessary resources, including sufficient schedule for compliance with this FLD.
- Designating a Competent Person or ensuring that a subcontractor Competent Person is designated, prior to the start of work.
- Discussing intrusive activity liability with the Client prior to the start of work. Best practices for identification of underground utilities must be included with the proposal and/or HASP, as well as WESTON’s requirement for Client sign-off (if the Client is the property owner or if the Client selects the drilling/intrusive action location) when identifying specific work locations for intrusive activities. In cases where the client, such as EPA, will or cannot sign off on liability or provide indemnification, discussions with the appropriate client representatives on intrusive activities will be documented in the project file.

**Note: In any ‘target-rich’ work environment, best practices must include the requirement for potholing/daylighting or careful hand-digging – whenever possible (at least 5 feet below grade) – since these are recognized processes for visually verifying the exact location of underground utilities while minimizing the potential for utility damage.**

- **For excavations using aggressive methods in target-rich environments**, consideration should be given for establishing an agreement with an Emergency Response Contractor and/or the specific utility owner prior to the start of intrusive activities. This agreement should include specific emergency notification procedures for each utility identified to ensure that timely response can be accomplished in the event of a utility strike.
- Determining/verifying ownership of the property where the intrusive activity will occur, including any easements.
- Contacting all utilities not notified directly by the utility notification center, including those known to local personnel and the property owner.
- Obtaining Profit Center Manager approval for any deviations from this FLD, including best practices, or for addressing any set of circumstances not specifically addressed in this FLD that may place WESTON or its employees at risk.

## Environmental, Health, and Safety Personnel

The FSO shall be responsible for:

- Providing oversight on the implementation of the requirements contained in this FLD.
- Consulting with the PM, SM, Competent Person, and the appropriate Division Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager (DEHSM) (or Corporate EHS) on underground utility issues.
- Acting as the Competent Person or Observer as necessary and qualified.

## Procedure

The following sections provide the requirements and recommendations, which are intended to prevent injury to personnel, damage to infrastructure, and associated indirect effects associated with encountering



or contacting underground utilities during intrusive work. Underground utilities present multiple potential hazards that must be recognized before and during work which occurs near them, therefore, this procedure is divided into sections addressing underground utility identification and location, working around or near underground utilities, and actions to be taken in the event that underground utilities are encountered or contacted. Hazards that may be presented by underground utilities include explosion and fire, electrocution, toxic exposures, pathogens, and drowning.

#### Identifying and Locating Underground Utilities

The potential for underground utilities or other subsurface feature (e.g., subsurface mines) must be evaluated as early as possible in the planning phase for any project which involves intrusive activities. The following sections describe various methods for identifying and locating utilities on a site. The *Underground Utilities Locating and Marking Checklist* (Attachment A) and the *Underground Utilities Management Checklist* (Attachment B) must be completed before any activities meeting the definition of excavation are conducted. Attachment A is intended to be used as a guide during the process of locating and marking utilities in the area to be excavated. Attachment B is intended to be used as a guide in the overall process of underground utilities management during the course of the project.

**Note:** Attachments A and B or their equivalents must be used to document compliance with this FLD and will be subject to audit.

Prior to excavation all underground utilities must be located and identified by at least two of the following:

- The Utility Owner
- The Property Owner
- A Private or Public Utility Locating Service
- Review of the most current utility drawing, maps or other available records by an approved WESTON Competent Person
- Use of utility locating technology by a WESTON Competent Person or subcontractor – this includes the use of potholing or daylighting in a “target-rich” work environment or whenever a full clearance (without restrictions) cannot be obtained from a utility locating service.

As an aid in determining the potential for or existence of utilities follow the criteria outlined in Attachment C (Utilities Research Options).

#### Pre-Planning and the Site HASP

The site-specific HASP developed for the project must:

- Identify the location and types of underground utilities that are believed to be present on the site.
- Reference this procedure (FLD 34), and describe how it will be implemented on the project.
- Contain an AHA in which the hazards associated with underground utilities are identified, as well as the measures used to control them.
- Contain any site or contract-specific requirements (e.g., Corps of Engineers, EM 385-1-1, Section 25) that may be applicable.
- Contain clear and concise procedures to be followed in the event that contact with underground utilities occurs.

- Address underground utilities and potential associated scenarios in the emergency response section of the HASP.









#### “One-Call” Locating and Marking Services

Every state has utility marking service programs that have various names such as “One-Call”, “Dig-Safe”, “Call-Before-You-Dig”, “Dig-Safely”, and many others. These services will identify the types and locations of any utility that may exist in an area to be excavated, as long as the property is in the public domain.

- The appropriate One-Call service for the jurisdiction where the project is located must be contacted prior to beginning excavation work. The One-Call Agency should be given as detailed a description of the property as possible; address, cross street, utility pole numbers, physical description, etc.
- Notification to the One-Call service shall allow sufficient lead-time for the Agency to mark the utilities before excavation begins. The lead times vary, but range from two to ten days, depending on the state of jurisdiction.
- In the event the State or Local One-Call service number is in question call "811" (the Federal Call before You Dig Number) for access to the appropriate locator service.
- A complete listing of One-Call agencies and telephone numbers for all states is available in the “*Call-Before-You-Dig Call Center Directory*”, which can be accessed on the Internet at the WebPage (<http://underspace.com/index.htm>) sponsored by “*Underground Focus*” magazine.
- Once notified, the One-Call Agency will provide the contractor with a unique “locate number” or “reference number”. This reference number must be kept in the project files by the Competent Person or designee. Additionally, the reference numbers have expiration dates, which may vary depending on the particular One-Call Agency. The valid period of the locate number and required renew notification date shall be requested from the One-Call Agency.
- On a project with multiple contractors, each contractor must request a separate locate number. Under no circumstances will any other contractor or entity be allowed to “work under our locate number”. Subcontractors to WESTON may excavate under the locate number secured by WESTON, provided that they are excavating within the area which was previously white-lined by WESTON and subsequently marked. **However, the One-Call Agency must be contacted and notified of this arrangement so that the subcontractor can be recorded as working under the existing locate number.** If a WESTON subcontractor will be excavating in an area not white-lined by WESTON, then the WESTON subcontractor must request a new locate. **Note: State and local requirements must be checked for local application of this procedure.**
- The area where work is to be performed shall be white-lined before the locating service goes to the site.
- It is good practice to arrange a pre-excavation meeting at the project site with the personnel performing the utility location and marking. This meeting will facilitate communications, coordinate the marking with actual excavation, and assure identification of high-priority utilities.
- The One-Call Agency should provide the identities of the utility owners that will be notified of the locate request. This information shall be recorded on the Underground Utilities Locating and Marking Checklist (Appendix A) and maintained in the project files. The contact person and phone number for each utility owner shall also be recorded. ***Note that all utility owners are not members of the One-Call system.*** This does not eliminate the need to contact a non-member owner if you have knowledge or suspect that excavation will impact their utility.

- The utility owners should provide a “positive response” relative to the locate request, which can consist of two types of action by the utility owner. The facility owner or operator is required to 1) mark its underground utilities with stakes, paint, or flags, or 2) notify the excavator that the utility owner/operator has no underground utilities in the area of the excavation.
- The positive responses shall be recorded on the Underground Utilities Locating and Marking Checklist (Attachment A) and crosschecked with the list of utility owners that the One-Call Agency stated they would notify. If it is discovered that a utility owner has not provided a positive response, then the One-Call Agency must be notified.
- Excavation shall not be conducted until positive responses have been received from all utility owners identified by the One-Call Agency as having underground utilities on the property.
- Before beginning excavation, the excavator must verify that the location marked was correct, and the distinct, color-coded markings of all utility owners are present.
- Examine the site to check for any visible signs of underground utilities that have not been located and marked such as pedestals, risers, meters, warning signs, manholes, pull boxes, valve boxes, patched asphalt or concrete pavement, areas of subsidence, fresh sod or grass, lack of grass or vegetation, and new trench lines.
- The markings placed by the utility owners should be documented by WESTON using a still, digital, or video camera, whenever practical and reasonable. The photo-documentation shall be maintained with the project files.
- The markings placed by the utility owners or marking services typically follow the American Public Works Association Uniform Color Code as described in ANSI Standard Z 535.1. This code follows:

#### **American Public Works Association Uniform Color Code**

Red		Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit
Orange		Communications, Telephone, Cable TV
Yellow		Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
Green		Sewers and Drains
Blue		Potable Water Systems
Purple		Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Slurry Lines
Pink		Temporary Survey Markings
White		Proposed Excavation

**Note:** Unless otherwise specified in the utility clearance, such clearance will not be considered valid after 30 days from the date it was issued.

#### Private Utility Locating and Marking Services

- **One-Call agencies arrange for the identification and marking of underground utilities only on public property, up to the point of contact with private property.** In the event that activities are to be conducted on non-public properties, the presence, location, depth, and orientation of all underground utilities shall be ascertained through records review, including any site plot plans, utility layout plans, and as-built drawings available from the property owner, as well as through interviews with knowledgeable personnel associated with the property (See Attachment C). Additionally, for excavations using aggressive methods in target-rich

environments or other situations where utility locations are in question, the information gathered from these sources shall be verified by physical detection methods (non-aggressive), performance of a geophysical survey, or by procuring the services of a private utility locating and marking service. If any detection methods are to be self-performed, the requirements within this FLD must be followed. **A list of vendors providing this service can be found in the “Network of Underground Damage Prevention Professionals” which can be accessed on the Internet at the “Underspace” WebPage (<http://underspace.com/index.htm>).**

#### Self-Performance of Utility Locating and Marking

The techniques and instruments used to locate and characterize underground utilities can be extremely complicated and difficult to use effectively. Additionally, interpretation of the data generated by this instrumentation can be difficult. The utility marking services, as previously described are staffed by well-trained, experienced professionals who perform locating activities on a regular basis. For these reasons, it is most desirable that these professional services are used for utility location and marking on projects.

- In some instances on private property or in other areas not served by One-Call agencies (e.g., long-term projects where excavation is a primary task, and the presence of underground utilities is extensive) it may be prudent to self-perform locating and marking activities.
- If locating and marking is to be self-performed, all personnel using instrumentation will be trained on the use of the equipment that will be used, and the interpretation of the data.
- There are a variety of locating methods which may be utilized for self-performance of utility locating as categorized below:
  - Magnetic field-based locators or path tracers
  - Buried electronic marker systems (EMS)
  - Ground penetration radar-based buried –structure detectors
  - Acoustics-based plastic pipe locators
  - Active probes, beacons, or sondes for non-metallic pipes
  - Magnetic polyethylene pipe
- Before self-performing any underground utility locating on a project, approval must be obtained from the appropriate WESTON DEHSM or the Corporate EHS Director.

#### **Working Near or Around Underground Utilities**

After the site has been properly evaluated for the presence of aboveground utilities, underground utilities, and other appurtenances, intrusive activities may begin. Because there is no perfect way of eliminating the hazards presented by underground utilities, an effort must be made to perform the tasks following the direction and guidance as described by the following best practices that should be implemented during the execution of the project.

#### Work Site Review

Before beginning intrusive activities, a meeting shall be held between all members of the project team. This shall consist of a review of the marked utility locations with the equipment operators, observers, laborers, etc.

#### Preservation of Marks

During excavation, efforts must be made to preserve the markings placed by the utility owners until they are no longer required. If any markings are obliterated, the One-Call Agency must be contacted for re-marking. No intrusive activities are to take place if markings are not visible.

### Excavation Observer

Whenever intrusive operations are being conducted within three feet of the edge of the buffer zone, an observer must be assigned to monitor the activities. The observer will be designated each day, and a review of hand signals and other forms of communication between the observer and operator will be conducted. The directives of the observer will be followed precisely and immediately by those operating equipment.

### Excavation Within The Buffer Zone

Mechanical means of excavation may not be used within 36 inches (see Buffer Zone) of any marked or suspect utility until the utility has been exposed. Mechanical methods may be used, as necessary, for initial penetration and removal of pavement, rock or other materials requiring use of mechanical means of excavation provided a spotter is used. Once the underground utility has been exposed, further excavation must be performed, employing reasonable precautions to avoid damage to the utility, including but not limited to any substantial weakening of structural or lateral support, or penetration or destruction of the utility or its protective coatings. For purposes of this section, "mechanical means of excavation" means excavation using any device or tool powered by an engine except air vacuum or like methods of excavation.

A request to utilize aggressive excavation methods in the buffer zone may be made if:

- There is no other appropriate and reasonable alternative to using aggressive methods in the buffer zone; and
- The utility has been de-energized (and purged if necessary), verified as de-energized, and locked-out; or
- The depth and orientation of the utility has been adequately and visually determined through the use of non-aggressive methods such as air/hydro/vacuum excavation, potholing, probing, hand-digging, or a combination thereof; and
- For utilities containing electrical energy, the depth of the existing water table is below the location of the utility; and
- Request for the exemption has been submitted to the appropriate DEHSM and Profit Center Manager for approval.

The following conditions will apply to this request:

- Aggressive methods may be used in the buffer zone only to the extent allowed by the applicable state or other jurisdictional regulations.
- Appropriate physical protection measures for exposed utilities shall be implemented to eliminate the potential for equipment contact with utilities.
- The extent of the project excavation area to be covered by the exemption request must be specified in the request for exemption.
- When evaluating the use of aggressive excavation methods in the buffer zone, the DEHSM will consider the type of utility involved and the associated risk potential. Based on this evaluation, the Profit Center Manager and/or DEHSM may impose further conditions and requirements. Even if the above exemption conditions are met, the DEHSM has authority to deny the request.

Unless exempted according to the above provisions of this procedure, only non-aggressive methods may be used within the buffer zone. These methods are used in order to prevent mechanical contact with underground utilities, which could result in damage to the utility and create the potential for personal injury and property damage. Following are examples of non-aggressive excavation methods:

- Hand-digging
  - Non-conductive hand tools must be used when digging within the buffer zone surrounding underground electrical utilities.
  - If conductive hand tools must be used near electrical lines, then the FSO and/or DEHSM shall be consulted to determine additional requirements relative to safe electrical practices, procedures, and equipment.
- Hydro-excavation (water pressure).
- Air excavation (air pressure).
- Vacuum extraction (soil excavation/removal).
- Air excavation/vacuum extraction combination.
- Aggressive methods may be used for the removal of pavement over a utility, if allowed by the state regulations.

#### Protection of Underground Utilities

It is very important that consideration be given to the protection of underground utilities when performing adjacent intrusive activities. This is necessary not only to prevent physical damage and associated indirect effects, but also to prevent the potential for injury to employees and the public.

- When using aggressive excavation methods within the buffer zone around exposed underground utilities, physical protection must be used as required by OSHA in 29 CFR 1926.651. Basically, this involves creation of a physical barrier between the mechanized operation and the utility. The following are some possible types of physical protective measures:
  - Heavy timbers, similar to swamp or crane mats.
  - Sheets of plywood.
  - Blasting mats.
- Once exposed, underground utilities no longer have the support provided by surrounding soil and may need to be physically supported to prevent shifting, bending, separation, or collapse, which could result in damage to the utility, and possibly personnel. Following are suggested support methods:
  - Timber shoring underneath the utility.
  - Timbers or girders over the top of the excavation fitted with hangers that support the utility.
  - Design by a Professional Engineer for complicated or large applications.
- Utilities must also be protected from objects that may fall into the excavation such as rocks and equipment. This can be accomplished by following these guidelines:
  - Cast spoils as far away from the excavation as possible. Excavated and loose materials shall be kept a minimum of two feet from the edge of excavations.
  - Relocate large rocks, cobbles, and boulders away from the excavation and sloped spoils piles.

- When vehicles and machinery are operating adjacent to excavations, warning systems such as soil berms, stop logs or barricades shall be utilized to prevent vehicles from entering the excavation or trench.
- Scaling or barricades shall be used to prevent rock and soils from falling into the excavation.
- Barriers shall be provided to prevent personnel from inadvertently falling into an excavation.

#### De-Energizing Utilities

Utilities can carry many types of potential energy, including electricity, flowing liquids, liquids under pressure, or gasses under pressure. A release may happen if a utility conveyance is compromised and could result in personal injury, property damage, and other indirect effects. If the white lines of the proposed excavation area overlaps or extends into the buffer zone of a known underground utility, then if at all possible, that utility should be de-energized to physically prevent the transmission, flow, or release of energy. Conversely, if the buffer zone of the known utility lies outside of the white-lined, proposed excavation area, then de-energizing is not required.

- The owner of the utility shall be contacted to determine the feasibility and methodology of de-energizing the utility. Plenty of lead-time should be provided for this since it may take utility companies weeks to de-energize some utilities.
- Depending on the utility and the material being conveyed, isolation points which may be suitable for de-energizing include but are not limited to the following:
  - Electrical circuit breakers
  - Slide gate
  - Disconnect switches
  - Piping flanges
  - Other similar devices
- When utilities are de-energized, it must be verified by demonstration. This can be accomplished by methods such as, testing equipment, switching on a machine or lighting, or opening a valve. For any current-carrying electrical equipment, such as cables or electrical panels, successful de-energizing must be certified through the use of appropriate electrical testing equipment and qualified personnel.
- Whenever a utility is de-energized, a means of ensuring that the energy isolation device and equipment cannot be operated until the device is removed must be provided.
- When de-energizing and locking out of utilities is practiced, the provisions of FLD 42 Lockout/Tagout shall be followed, as applicable.

#### Damage Discovery

During excavation, utility damage may be discovered which is pre-existing or otherwise not related to a known contact. Disclosure to the utility owner is very important because the possibility of utility failure or endangerment of the surrounding population increases when damage has occurred. The utility may not immediately fail as a result of damage, but the utility owner or operator must be afforded the opportunity to inspect the utility and make a damage assessment and effect repairs if necessary. The following guidance applies:

- Observe and photograph the utility from a safe distance and determine if there is damage. Damage would be all breaks, leaks, nicks, dents, gouges, grooves, or other damages to utility lines, conduits, coatings, or cathodic protection systems.

- The owner of the affected utility must be contacted immediately.
- The One-Call Agency or private location service must be contacted immediately.
- A Notification of Incident (NOI) Report will be used to document such a discovery.

#### Encountering Unexpected Underground Utilities

It is possible that underground utilities will be encountered in locations that have previously been “cleared” of having underground utilities by the locating service, or are found outside of the area, which has been marked as having underground utilities. In either case, if this occurs, the following applies:

- Site personnel must be warned and moved to a safe location; equipment engines and ignition sources should be turned off, if possible, as the operator is exiting his/her equipment.
- Intrusive activities must be stopped.
- The owner of the affected utility must be immediately contacted.
- The One-Call Agency or private location service must be contacted immediately.
- The PM, SM, and FSO must be notified.
- No further intrusive activities may be conducted until:
  - The One-Call Agency/private location service and/or the subject utility owner visit the site;
  - Identification of the utility owner and the type of material/energy being conveyed by the utility has been made; and
  - The orientation and depth of the subject utility has been determined and suitably marked.
- A NOI Report must be completed. The report should be accompanied by photographs clearly showing the marking(s), and the actual location, with a distance gauge to document how far off the mark the utility was encountered.

#### Contacting Underground Utilities

If excavation or other equipment being used for intrusive activities makes contact with an underground utility, the following guidelines apply:

- Site personnel must be warned and moved to a safe location; equipment engines and ignition sources should be turned off, if possible, as the operator is exiting his/her equipment.
- Intrusive activities must be stopped immediately.
- Observe the utility from a safe distance and determine if there is damage. Damage would be all breaks, leaks, nicks, dents, gouges, grooves, scratched coatings, cathodic protection compromise, material leakage, obvious electrical energy.
- Move all personnel to the evacuation meeting point as described in the HASP.

***EXCEPTION:*** *If an electrical line has been contacted and it is your belief that equipment (such as an excavator) is electrically energized, do not approach the equipment. Order the operator to remain in the equipment until emergency personnel can de-energize the source (unless the equipment is on fire, at which time the operator should jump off of the vehicle and shuffle along the ground to a safe area). Shuffling is required because current flows outward through the soil in a ripple pattern called a power gradient, creating a pattern of high and low potential, Shuffling decreases the chance that these gradients could be bridged, causing current to flow through the body, resulting in electrocution.*



- Secure the area to prevent the public from entering.
- Contact emergency responders as specified in the HASP.
- Immediately contact the One-Call Agency or if known, the utility owner.
- Notify the PM, SM, FSO and DEHSM.
- No further intrusive activities may be conducted until:
  - The utility owner inspects the scene and after repairs, verifies that all danger has passed.
  - The orientation and depth of the subject utility has been determined and suitably marked.
  - Permission from the emergency responders to resume work has been given.
- A WESTON NOI Report must be completed. The report should be accompanied by photographs clearly showing the marking(s), and the actual location, with a distance gauge to document how far off the mark the utility was encountered.
- State and Local regulations must be reviewed to determine if reporting to any additional agencies is required.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Underground Utilities Locating and Marking Checklist

Attachment B – Underground Utilities Management Checklist

Attachment C – Utilities Research Options

Attachment D – Sources of Information

Informational Addendum 16 June 2010

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**UNDERGROUND UTILITIES LOCATING AND MARKING CHECKLIST**

*Weston Solutions, Inc.*

To be Completed by PM and/or "Competent Person"  
 Complete Form as Location/Marking Progresses and Maintain in Site Files

<b>PROJECT INFORMATION:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	Task/Activity:
WESTON Competent Person:	Start Date of Work:
WESTON Subcontractor: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	Private Locating Service Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Subcontractor Competent Person:	If Not, Explain:
Property Owner:	
<b>NOTIFICATION:</b>	
<b>Locating Service Name:</b>	Locating Service Tel. Number:
Date Locating Service Notified:	Locate Ticket Number:
Address of Property to be Marked:	Locate Ticket Expiration Date:
Nearest Intersecting Street:	
Are There Any Utilities on the Properties That the Locating Service Will Not Contact? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Specify:	

*Enter Utility Information in Table 1 Below. In Addition to Utility Locating Services, Consult Client, Utility Owners, Drawings, Facility Personnel, Maintenance Personnel, Municipalities (See Appendix C).*

**Table 1. On-Site Utility Information**

Name of Utility Company	Type of Utility	Color Code	Utility Present On-Site?	Emergency Phone Number	Date Marks Completed
	Electric	RED			
	Communications, Phone, CATV	ORANGE			
	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum	YELLOW			
	Sewers, Drains	GREEN			
	Potable Water	BLUE			
	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation	PURPLE			
	Temporary Survey Markings	PINK			
To be performed by excavator prior to utility mark-out.	Proposed Excavation	WHITE			

White-Lining Completed?

☐ No Explain: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Yes: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By Whom? \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATING AND MARKING:**

Have All Utilities Identified in Table 1 Been Marked?

☐ Yes ☐ No (If No, Contact Locating Service for Resolution)

Problem(s) With Markings?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Marks ☐ Incorrect Location ☐ Too Wide

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Not All Utilities Marked Per Table 1 (notify marking service)

Measurements Taken: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Documentation of Marks: ☐ Photos ☐ Video ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXCAVATION:**

Utilities Accurately Marked? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Were Unmarked or Mis-Marked Utilities Encountered? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Locating Service Notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will Excavation Continue Past Locate Number Expiration? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, Locate Number Renewed? ☐ Yes ☐ No New Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Other Problems/Concerns? Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Form Completed By:	Signature:	Date:
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**ATTACHMENT B**  
**UNDERGROUND UTILITIES MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST**

*Weston Solutions, Inc.*

To be Completed by PM and/or “Competent Person”

Complete Form as Project Progresses and Maintain in Site Files.

PHASE	TASK		YES	NO	NA	COMMENTS Required if Response is No or NA. (Reference Item Number)
<b>Pre-Planning</b>	1	Excavation/Best Practices in Work Scope?				
	2	Underground Utilities Identified?				
	3	Competent Person Assigned?				
	4	Has a Copy of the Applicable State Regulations Been Obtained, Read, Understood?				
	5	EHS Plan Addresses Underground Utilities? (AHAs, Contingency Plan, State Regulations Appendix)				
<b>Identifying, Locating and Marking</b>	6	Locating and Marking Checklist Initiated? (Attachment A)				
	7	Identification and Address of Property Determined, Including Nearest Intersection?				
	8	One-Call Agency Contacted?				
	9	Additional Locating and Marking Required on Property? (One-Call agency marks to public property line only)				
	10	Additional Marker/Locator Identified?				
	11	Additional Marker/Locator Qualified?				
	12	Weston Self-Performing Location and Marking?				
	13	If Yes to 12 Above, Approval From Division EHS Manager?				
	14	Area of Excavation “White-Lined” by WESTON?				
	15	WESTON Present When Markings Completed?				
	16	All Utilities Marked? (Refer to Attachment A, Table 1)				
	17	All Markings Photo/Video Documented?				

PHASE	TASK		YES	NO	NA	COMMENTS
						Required if Response is No or NA. (Reference Item Number)
<b>Identifying, Locating and Marking – Continued</b>	18	Area Checked for Signs of Previous Excavation? (Subsidence, new grass, patching, etc)				
	19	All Applicable Information Recorded on Attachment A?				
	20	Multiple Contractors Excavating On-Site?				
	21	Separate Locate Requests for All Contractors?				
	22	WESTON Subcontractors Excavating in WESTON White- Lined Area(s)?				
	23	If Yes to 22 Above, One-Call Agency Contacted to Determine if WESTON Subcontractor Can be Added to Existing Locate Ticket?				
<b>Excavation Activities</b>	24	Meeting and Site Walkover Conducted with Project Personnel? (Managers, Equipment Operators, Laborers, Competent Person, Excavation Observer, etc)				
	25	AHA and HASP Review Conducted With Personnel?				
	26	Do Site Activities Have Potential to Obliterate Utility Markings?				
	27	If Yes to 26 Above, Have Provisions Been Made to Preserve Markings?				
	28	Has an Excavation Observer Been Designated to Monitor Excavation When Occurring within 3 Feet of the Buffer Zone?				
	29	Have Operator and Observer Reviewed Commands and Signals?				
	30	Has WESTON-Required Buffer Zone Been Marked on Either Side of Markings Placed by Locator?				

PHASE	TASK		YES	NO	NA	COMMENTS
						Required if Response is No or NA. (Reference Item Number)
<b>Excavation Within Buffer Zone</b>	31	Is Excavation Within The Buffer Zone Absolutely Necessary?				
	32	If Yes to 31 Above, Can Non-Aggressive Methods Be Used For Excavation In The Buffer Zone? If Yes, Identify Appropriate Non-Aggressive Methods.				
	33	If No to 32 Above, Has a Buffer Zone Exemption Request Been Approved? If No, then Aggressive Methods May Not Be Used in The Buffer Zone.				
	34	If Yes to 33 Above, Has the Utility Been De-Energized, Purged, Verified/Tested, and Locked-Out? Or,  Has The Depth and Orientation of the Utility Been Adequately and Visually Determined Through The Use of Non-Aggressive Methods?				
	35	If Yes to 34 Above, Have All of The Following Conditions Been Met?  For Utilities Containing Electrical Energy, Is The Depth of The Water Table Below The Depth of The Utility?  Have Regulations Been Consulted to Determine Specific State Requirements Relative to Excavating in The Buffer Zone?  Have Appropriate Physical Protection Measures Been Implemented to Prevent Equipment Contact With Utilities and to Prevent Damage to Utilities?  If No to Any of The Above Conditions, Then Only Non-Aggressive Excavation Methods May Conducted in The Buffer Zone, Since The Conditions of The Exemption Have Not Been Satisfied.				
<b>Working Around Exposed Utilities</b>	36	If Necessary, Have Provisions Been Made to Support the Utility During Work Activities?				
	37	Have Spoils Been Placed as far Away From the Excavation as Feasible?				

PHASE	TASK		YES	NO	NA	COMMENTS
						Required if Response is No or NA. (Reference Item Number)
<b>Working Around Exposed Utilities – Continued</b>	38	Has the Utility Been De-Energized? (If Any Portion of the Buffer Zone around a Utility is Inside of the White-Lined Area)				
	39	Has the Isolation Point for the De-Energized Utility Been Physically Locked-Out?				
	40	If No to 39 Above, Has a Spotter Been Assigned to Monitor Isolation Point?				
	41	If Yes to 40 Above, Does the Spotter Have Adequate Communications? (Radio, Telephone, etc)				
	42	Has the Isolation Point Been Tagged?				
<b>Damage Discovery</b>	43	Has Pre-Existing Damage to a Utility Been Discovered During Excavation?				
	44	If Yes to 43 Above, Has the One-Call Agency and/or Utility Owner Been Notified?				
	45	If Yes to 43 Above, Have Photographs Been taken?				
<b>Encountering or Contacting Underground Utilities</b>	46	Have Utilities Been Encountered in Locations That Have Not Been Marked?				
	47	If Yes to 46 Above, Has the One-Call Agency or Other Locating Service Been Contacted?				
	48	If Yes to 46 Above, Has the PM and Appropriate DSM Been Notified?				
	49	If Yes to 46 Above, Has a WESTON Notification of Incident (NOI) Report Been Completed? (Include Photographs)				
	50	Have Excavation Equipment Come In Contact With Underground utilities?				
	51	If Yes to 50 Above, Were Intrusive Activities Immediately Curtailed?				

PHASE	TASK		YES	NO	NA	COMMENTS
						Required if Response is No or NA. (Reference Item Number)
<b>Encountering or Contacting Underground Utilities – Continued</b>	52	If Yes to 50 Above, Has a Damage Determination Been Made From a Safe Distance?				
	53	If Yes to 50 Above, Has the Area Been Secured?				
	54	If Yes to 50 Above, Have Emergency Responders Been Notified?				
	55	If Yes to 50 Above, Has the Locating Agency and/or Utility Owner Been Notified?				
	56	If Yes to 50 Above, Have State and Local Reporting Requirements Been Met?				
	57	If Yes to 50 Above, Were Intrusive Activities Curtailed Until Inspection From Utility Owner, Orientation and Depth of Utility Was Determined and Marked, Permission From Emergency Responders Given?				
	58	If Yes to 50 Above, Has a WESTON Notification of Incident (NOI) Report Been Completed? (Include Photographs)				

CHECKLIST COMPLETED BY:

_____ NAME	_____ SIGNATURE	_____ DATE
_____ NAME	_____ SIGNATURE	_____ DATE



**ATTACHMENT C**  
**UTILITY RESEARCH OPTIONS**

In the course of determining and verifying underground utility location it is expected that a minimum of two resources will be used. As a means of assisting the search for sources, the following is offered.

Records Sources:

- ☐ Utility Section of the State DOT or other Public Agency
- ☐ One-Call Center
- ☐ Public Service Commission or similar organization
- ☐ County Clerks Office
- ☐ Landowner
- ☐ Internet or Computer database
- ☐ Visual Site Inspection
- ☐ Utility Owner

From the Above Collect:

- ☐ Previous construction plans in the area
- ☐ Conduit maps
- ☐ Direct-Buried Cable records
- ☐ Distribution maps
- ☐ Service record maps
- ☐ As-built and record drawings
- ☐ Field notes
- ☐ County, city, utility owner or other geographic information system database
- ☐ Circuit diagrams
- ☐ Oral histories (current or previous employees, residents).

Review Records and Obtain Information For:

- ☐ Indications of additional and/or other available records
- ☐ Duplicate information that lends credibility to data
- ☐ Any additional need for clarifications from owners/others

## **ATTACHMENT D SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

### Organizations

- Common Ground Alliance  
<http://www.commongroundalliance.com/wc.dll?cga~toppage>
- Center for Subsurface Strategic Action (CSSA)  
<http://underspace.com/cs/index.htm>
- DigSafely  
<http://www.digsafely.com/digsafely/default.asp>
- National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA)  
<http://www.nuca.com/>
- National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA)  
<http://underspace.com/nu/index.htm>
- Underground Focus Magazine  
<http://underspace.com/uf/index.htm>
- NUCA State Listing of One-Call centers  
<http://www.nuca.com/>
- Utility Safety Magazine  
<http://www.utilitysafety.com/>

### Vendors and Commercial Sites

- RadioDetection, Inc. (Detection Instruments)  
<http://www.radiodee.com/>
- Heath Consultants (Detection Instruments)  
<http://www.heathus.com/>
- Ben Meadows Company (Detection Instruments)  
<http://www.benmeadows.com/cgi-bin/SoftCart.exe/index.html?E+scstore>
- So-Deep, Inc. (Complete Utilities Services)  
<http://www.sodeep.com/>
- Concept Engineering Group, Inc. (Air Excavation Equipment)  
<http://www.air-spade.com/index.html>
- Rycom Instruments, Inc. (Detection Instruments)  
<http://www.rycominstruments.com/>

- Schonstedt Instrument Company (Detection Instruments)  
<http://www.schonstedt.com/>
- Forestry Suppliers, Inc. (Fiberglass Probe – “Fiberglass Tile Probe”, Part #77543,  
Approx. \$20.00, Telephone 800-647-5368)  
<http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>

## **REFERENCES**

Common Ground Study of One-Call Systems and Damage Prevention Best Practices, August 1999,  
Sponsored by US DOT.

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**INFORMATIONAL ADDENDUM**  
**16 JUNE 2010**

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# **Overview of Underground Utility Detection Methods**

## **Induction Utility Locators**

Induction utility locators operate by locating either a background signal or by locating a signal introduced into the utility line using a transmitter. There are three sources of background signals that can be located. A utility line can act like a radio antenna, transmitting electromagnetic signals that can be picked up with a receiver. AC power lines have a 50HZ signal associated with them. This signal occurs in all active AC power lines regardless of voltage. Utilities in close proximity to AC power lines or used as grounds may also have a 50HZ signal that can be located with a receiver. A signal can be indirectly induced onto a utility line by placing the transmitter above the line. Through a process of trial and error, the exact above position can be determined. A direct induced signal can be generated using an induction clamp. The inductor clamp induces a signal on specific utilities. This is the preferred method of tracing, where possible. By virtue of the closed loop, there is little chance of interference with the resulting signals. When access can be gained to a conduit, a flexible insulated trace wire can be used. The resulting signal loop can be traced. This is very useful for non-metallic conduits. Finally, these signals can be located horizontally on the surface using a receiver. The receiver is moved across the estimated location of the utility line until the highest signal strength is achieved. This is the approximate horizontal location of the utility. The receiver is then rotated until minimal signal strength is achieved. This will give the approximate orientation of the utility. Vertical depth, however, derived from this equipment is subject to gross error.

## **Magnetic Locators**

Ferrous Metal or Magnetic locators operate by indicating the relative amounts of buried ferrous metals. They have limited application to locating and identifying utility lines but can be very useful for locating underground storage tanks (UST's) and buried manhole covers or other subsurface objects with a large ferrous metal content.

## **Electromagnetic Surveys**

Electromagnetic survey equipment is used to locate metallic utilities. This method pulses the ground and records the signal retransmitted back to the unit from subsurface metal. Particularly useful for locating metal pipelines and conduit, this device also can help locate other subsurface objects such as UST's, buried foundations (that contain structural steel), and pilings and pile caps (that also contain steel).

## **Ground Penetrating Radar**

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is an electromagnetic method that detects interfaces between subsurface materials with differing dielectric constants (a term that describes an electrical parameter of a material). The GPR system consists of an antenna, which houses the transmitter and receiver; and a profiling recorder, which processes the received signal and produces a graphic display of the data. The transmitter radiates repetitive short-duration EM signals into the earth from an antenna moving across the ground surface. Electromagnetic waves are reflected back to the receiver by interfaces between materials with differing dielectric constants. The intensity of the reflected signal is a function of the contrast in the dielectric constant at the interface, the conductivity of the material, which the wave is traveling through, and the frequency of the signal. Subsurface features which may cause such reflections are: 1) natural geologic conditions such as changes in sediment composition, bedding and cementation horizons, voids, and water content; or 2) man-introduced materials or changes to the subsurface such as soil backfill, buried debris, tanks, pipelines, and utilities. The profiling recorder receives the signal from the antennae and produces a continuous cross section of the subsurface interface reflections, referred to as reflectors.

Depth of investigation of the GPR signal is highly site specific, and is limited by signal attenuation (absorption) of the subsurface materials. Signal attenuation is dependent upon the electrical conductivity of the subsurface materials. Signal attenuation is greatest in materials with relatively high electrical conductivity such as clays and brackish groundwater, and lowest in relatively low conductivity materials such as unsaturated sand or rock. Maximum depth of investigation is also dependent on antennae frequency and generally increases with decreasing frequency; however, the ability to identify smaller features is diminished as frequency decreases.

The various GPR antennas used are internally shielded from aboveground interference sources. Accordingly, the GPR signal is minimally affected by nearby aboveground conductive objects such as metal fences, overhead power lines, and vehicles.

A GPR survey is performed by towing an antenna across the ground along predetermined transect lines. The antennae is either pulled by a person or towed behind a vehicle. Preliminary GPR transects are performed over random areas of the site to calibrate the GPR equipment and characterize overall site conditions. The optimum time range settings are selected to provide the best combination of depth of investigation and data resolution for the subsurface conditions at the site. Ideally, the survey is performed along a pre-selected system of perpendicular or parallel transect lines. The configuration of the transect lines is designed based on the geometry and size of the target and the dimensions of the site. The beginning and ending points of the transect lines and grid intersection points, or nodes, are marked on the ground with spray paint or survey flags. A grid system is used to increase the probability of crossing the short axis of a target providing a more definitive signature in the data. The location of the antenna along a transect line is electronically marked on the cross section at each grid intersection point to allow correlation of the data to actual ground locations. The location of the targets can be marked on the ground surface using spray paint or survey flags.

### **Acoustic Location Methods**

Acoustic location methods generally apply to waterlines. A highly sensitive Acoustic Receiver listens for background sounds of water flowing; (at joints, leaks, etc.) or to sounds introduced into the water main using a transducer. This method may have good identification results, but can be inaccurate. Acoustics can also being utilized to determine the location of plastic gas lines.

## **FLD 43 B     INSECTS**

### **Sting and Biting Insects**

Contact with stinging insects may result in site personnel experiencing adverse health affects that range from being mildly uncomfortable to being life threatening. Therefore, stinging insects present a serious hazard to site personnel and extreme caution must be exercised whenever site and weather conditions increase the risk of encountering stinging insects. These include the following:

- Bees ("Killer" bees, honeybees, bumble bees, wasps, and hornets and wingless wasps)
- Scorpions
- Fire ants
- Spiders

### **Bees, Wasps, Hornets and Yellow Jackets**

The severity of an insect sting reaction varies from person to person. A normal reaction will result in pain, swelling and redness confined to the sting site. Simply disinfect the area (washing with soap and water will do) and apply ice to reduce the swelling.

A large local reaction will result in swelling that extends beyond the sting site. For example, a sting on the forearm could result in the entire arm swelling twice its normal size.

Although alarming in appearance, this condition is often treated the same as a normal reaction. An unusually painful or very large local reaction may need medical attention. Because this condition may persist for two to three days, antihistamines and corticosteroids are sometimes prescribed to lessen the discomfort.

Yellow jackets, hornets and wasps can sting repeatedly. Honeybees have barbed stingers that are left behind in their victim's skin. These stingers are best removed by a scraping action, rather than a pulling motion, which may actually squeeze more venom into the skin.

Personnel should be very cautious of "killer" bees. They have the appearance of the typical honeybee, however, they are very aggressive. These Africanized honeybees (AHB) defend their colonies much more vigorously than typical bees. The colonies are easily disturbed (sometimes just by being nearby). When they do sting, many more bees may participate, so there is a danger of receiving more stings. This can make them life threatening, especially to people allergic to stings, or with limited capacity to escape (the young, old, and handicapped).

### **Scorpions**

Scorpion stings are a major public health problem in many underdeveloped tropical countries. For every person killed by a poisonous snake, 10 are killed by a poisonous scorpion. In Mexico, 1000 deaths from scorpion stings occur per year. In the United States, only 4 deaths in 11 years have occurred as a result of scorpion stings. Furthermore, scorpions can be found outside their

normal range of distribution, ie, when they accidentally crawl into luggage, boxes, containers, or shoes and are unwittingly transported home via human travelers.

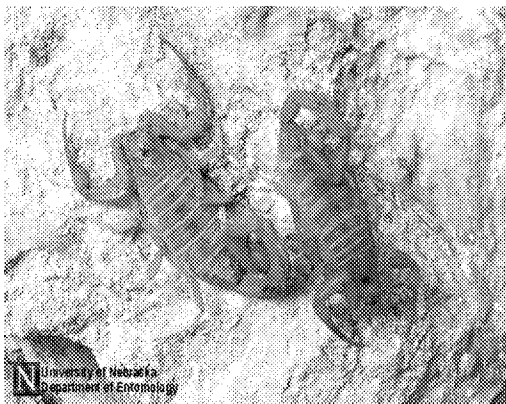
Out of 1500 scorpion species, 50 are dangerous to humans. Scorpion stings cause a wide range of conditions, from severe local skin reactions to neurologic, respiratory, and cardiovascular collapse.

Almost all of these lethal scorpions, except the *Hemiscorpius* species, belong to the scorpion family called the Buthidae. The Buthidae family is characterized by a triangular-shaped sternum, as opposed to the pentagonal-shaped sternum found in the other 5 scorpion families. In addition to the triangular-shaped sternum, poisonous scorpions also tend to have weak-looking pincers, thin bodies, and thick tails, as opposed to the strong heavy pincers, thick bodies, and thin tails seen in nonlethal scorpions. The lethal members of the Buthidae family include the genera of *Buthus*, *Parabuthus*, *Mesobuthus*, *Tityus*, *Leiurus*, *Androctonus*, and *Centruroides*. These lethal scorpions are found generally in the given distribution:

<i>Centruroides</i> - Southwest USA, Mexico, Central America	<i>Tityus</i> - Central and South America, Caribbean
<i>Buthus</i> - Mediterranean area	<i>Androctonus</i> - Northern Africa to Southeast Asia
<i>Leiurus</i> - Northern Africa and Middle East	<i>Mesobuthus</i> - Asia
<i>Parabuthus</i> - Western and Southern Africa	

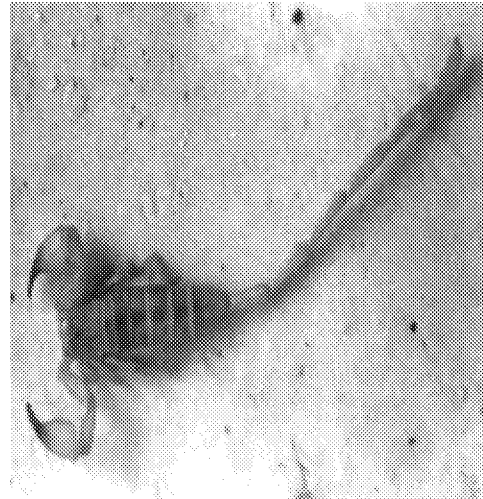
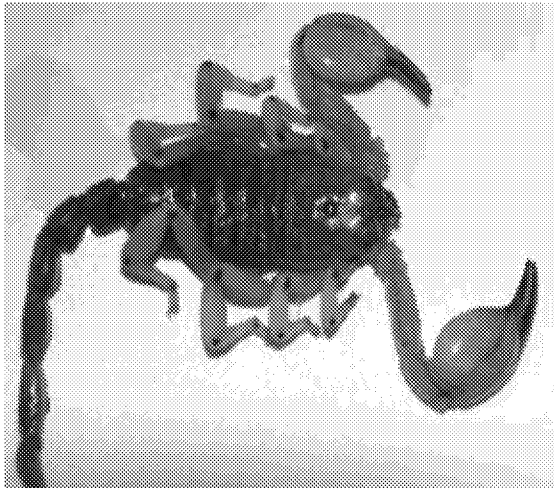
A scorpion has a flattened elongated body and can easily hide in cracks. It has 4 pairs of legs, a pair of claws, and a segmented tail that has a poisonous spike at the end. Scorpions vary in size from 1-20 cm in length.

However, scorpions may be found outside their habitat range of distribution when inadvertently transported with luggage and cargo.

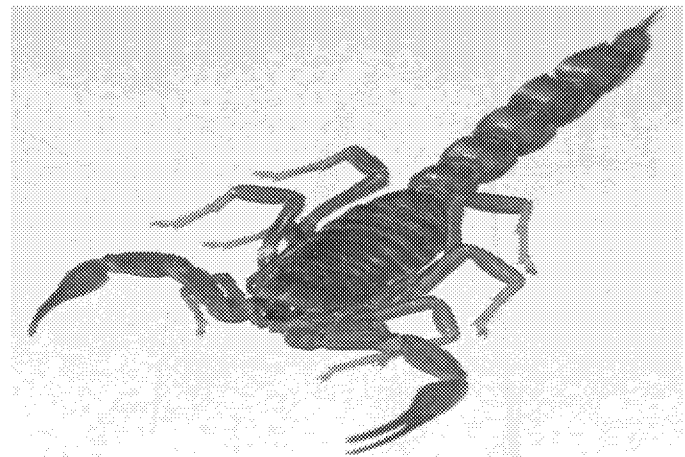
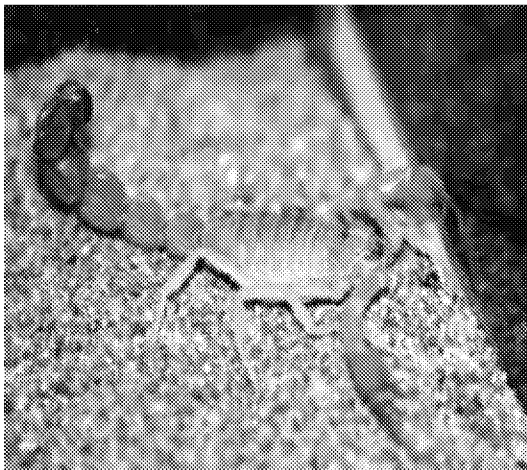


**Centruroides (Southwest USA, Mexico)**

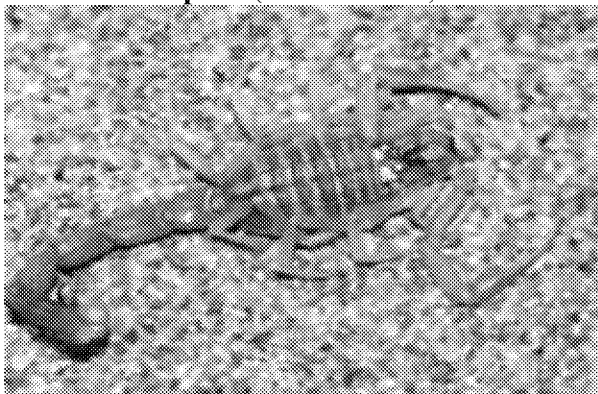




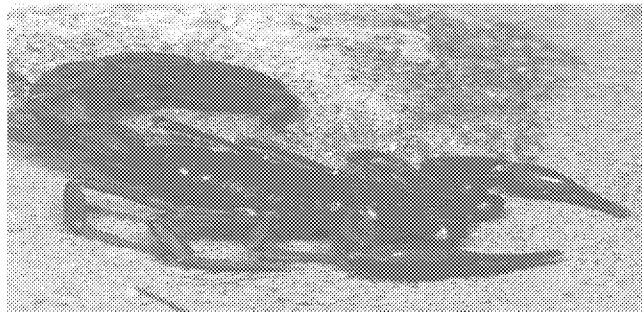
**Hemiscorpius (Middle East) cytotoxic**



**Fat Tail Scorpion (Middle East) neurotoxic**



**Death Stalker *Leiurus quinquestriatus* (Africa Southwest and North) neurotoxic**



## **Black Scorpion (Middle East) deadly neurotoxin**

### **Prevention**

Preventive measures include awareness of scorpions, shaking out clothing and boots before putting them on looking before reaching into likely hiding places and wearing gloves, long sleeved shirts and pants.

### **Symptoms**

In mild cases, the only symptom may be a mild tingling or burning at site of sting.

In severe cases, symptoms may include:

- Eyes and ears - Double vision
- Lungs - Difficulty breathing, No breathing, Rapid breathing,
- Nose, mouth, and throat – Drooling, Spasm of the voice box, Thick-feeling tongue
- Heart and blood - High blood pressure, Increased or decreased heart rate, Irregular heartbeat
- Kidneys and bladder Urinary incontinence, Urine output, decreased
- Muscles and joints - Muscle spasms
- Nervous system – Paralysis, Random movements of head, eye, or neck, Restlessness, Seizures, Stiffness
- Stomach and intestinal tract - Abdominal cramps, Fecal incontinence
- Other -Convulsions

### **Treatment**

1. Recognize scorpion sting symptoms:
2. Wash the area with soap and water.
3. Apply a cool compress on the area of the scorpion sting. Ice (wrapped in a washcloth or other suitable covering) may be applied to the sting location for 10 minutes. Remove compress for 10 minutes and repeat as necessary.
4. Call the Poison Control Center. If you develop symptoms of a poisonous scorpion sting, go to the nearest emergency care facility.
5. Keep your tetanus shots and boosters current.

## Fire Ants

Fire ants are aggressive, reddish-brown to black ants that are 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch long. They construct nests, which are often visible as dome-shaped mounds of soil, sometimes as large as 3 feet across and 1 1/2 feet in height. In sandy soils, mounds are flatter and less visible. Fire ants usually build mounds in sunny, open areas such as lawns, pastures, cultivated fields and meadows, but they are not restricted to these areas. Mounds or nests may be located in rotting logs, around trees and stumps, under pavement and buildings, and occasionally indoors.

Fire ants use their stingers to immobilize or kill prey and to defend ant mounds from disturbance by larger animals, such as humans. Any disturbance sends hundreds of workers out to attack anything that moves. The ant grabs its victim with its mandibles (mouthparts) and then inserts its stinger. The process of stinging releases a chemical, which alerts other ants, inducing them to sting. In addition, one ant can sting several times without letting go with its mandibles.

Once stung, humans experience a sharp pain that lasts a couple of minutes, then after a while the sting starts itching and a welt appears. Fire ant venom contains alkaloids and a relatively small amount of protein. The alkaloids kill skin cells; this attracts white blood cells, which form a pustule within a few hours of being stung. The fluid in the pustule is sterile, but if the pustule is broken, the wound may become infected. The protein in the venom can cause allergic reactions that may require medical attention.

Some of the factors related to stinging insects that increase the risk associated with accidental contact are:

- The nests for these insects are frequently found in remote wooded or grassy areas and hidden in cavities
- The nests can be situated in trees, rocks, bushes or in the ground, and are usually difficult to see
- Accidental contact with these insects is highly probable, especially during warm weather conditions when the insects are most active
- If a site worker accidentally disturbs a nest, the worker may be inflicted with multiple stings, causing extreme pain and swelling which can leave the worker incapacitated and in need of medical attention
- Some people are hypersensitive to the toxins injected by a sting, and when stung, experience a violent and immediate allergic reaction resulting in a life-threatening condition known as anaphylactic shock
- Anaphylactic shock manifests itself very rapidly and is characterized by extreme swelling of the body, eyes, face, mouth and respiratory passages
- The hypersensitivity needed to cause anaphylactic shock, can in some people, accumulate over time and exposure, therefore, even if someone has been stung previously, and not experienced an allergic reaction, there is no guarantee that they will not have an allergic reaction if they are stung again

With these things in mind, and with the high probability of contact with stinging insects, use the following safe work practices:

- If a worker knows that he is hypersensitive to bee, wasp or hornet stings, inform the site Safety officer of this condition prior to participation in site activities
- All site personnel will be watchful for the presence of stinging insects and their nests, and will advise the Site Safety officer if a stinging insect nest is located or suspected in the area
- Any nests located on site will be flagged off and site personnel will be notified of its presence
- If attacked, site personnel will immediately seek shelter and stay there. Do not jump in water (bees will still be in the area when you come up). Once safe, remove stings from your skin, it does not matter how you do it, but do it as quickly as possible to reduce the amount of venom they inject. Obtain first aid treatment and contact the safety officer who will observe for signs of allergic reaction

Treatment for fire ant stings is aimed at preventing secondary bacterial infection, which may occur if the pustule is scratched or broken. Clean the blisters with soap and water to prevent secondary infection. Do not break the blister. Topical corticosteroid ointments and oral antihistamines may relieve the itching associated with these reactions.

Site personnel with a known hypersensitivity to stinging insects will keep required emergency medication on or near their person at all times

## **Spiders**

A large variety of spiders may be encountered during site activities. Extreme caution must be used when lifting logs and debris, since spiders are typically found in these areas.

While most spider bites merely cause localized pain, swelling, reddening, and in some cases, tissue damage, there are a few spiders that, due to the severity of the physiological affects caused by their venom, are dangerous. The UXOSO will brief site personnel as to the identification and avoidance of these dangerous spiders. These species include the black widow and the brown or violin spiders.

The black widow is a coal-black bulbous spider 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches in length, with a bright red hourglass on the under side of the abdomen. The black widow is usually found in dark moist locations, especially under rocks, rotting logs and may even be found in outdoor toilets where they inhabit the underside of the seat. Victims of a black widow bite may exhibit the following signs or symptoms:

- Sensation of pinprick or minor burning at the time of the bite
- Appearance of small punctures (but sometimes none are visible)
- After 15 to 60 minutes, intense pain is felt at the site of the bite which spreads quickly, and is followed by profuse sweating, rigid abdominal muscles, muscle spasms, breathing difficulty, slurred speech, poor coordination, dilated pupils and generalized swelling of face and extremities

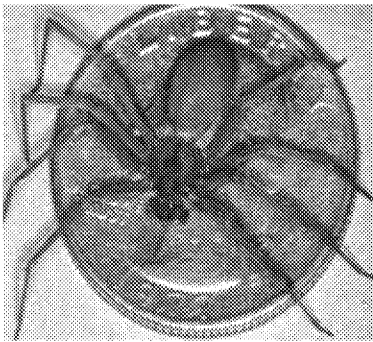
The brown or violin spider is brownish to tan in color, rather flat, and 1/2 to 5/8 inches long. However, unlike the typical species, this spider has been encountered without a violin or “fiddle” shaped mark on the top of the head. Of the brown spider, there are three varieties found in the United States that present a problem to site personnel. These are the brown recluse, the desert violin and the Arizona violin. These

spiders may be found in a variety of locations including trees, rocks or in dark locations. Victims of a brown or violin spider bite may exhibit the following signs or symptoms:

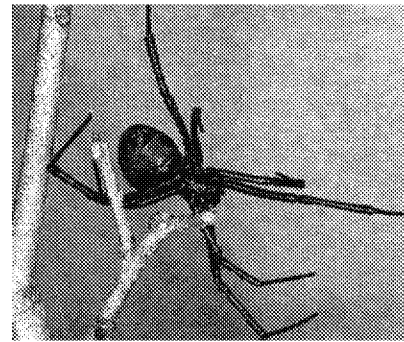
- Blistering at the site of the bite, followed by a local burning at the site 30 to 60 minutes after the bite
- Formation of a large, red, swollen, postulating lesion with a bull's-eye appearance
- Systemic affects may include a generalized rash, joint pain, chills, fever, nausea and vomiting
- Pain may become severe after 8 hours, with the onset of tissue necrosis

There is no effective first aid treatment for either of these bites. Except for very young, very old or weak victims, spider bites are not considered to be life threatening. However, medical treatment must be sought to reduce the extent of damage caused by the injected toxins.

#### **Brown Recluse Spider**



#### **Black Widow Spider**



First aid should include:

- If possible, catch the spider to confirm its identity. Even if the body is crushed, save it for identification
- Clean the bitten area with soap and water or rubbing alcohol
- To relieve pain, place an ice pack over the bite
- Keep the victim quiet and monitor breathing

Seek immediate medical attention

## **Sensitivity Reaction to Insect Stings or Bites**

A sensitivity reaction is one of the more dangerous and acute effects of insect bites or stings. It is the most common cause of fatalities from bites, particularly from bees, wasps, and spiders. Anaphylactic shock due to stings can lead to severe reactions in the circulatory, respiratory, and central nervous system. This can also result in death.

Site personnel must be questioned regarding their allergic reaction to insect bites. Anyone knowingly allergic should be required to carry and know how to use a response kit. First aid providers must be instructed on how to use the kit also. The kit must be inspected to ensure it is updated.

Administer first aid and observe persons reporting stings for signs of allergic reaction, such as unusual swelling, nausea, dizziness, and shock. At the first sign of these symptoms, take the individual to a medical facility for attention.

## **Insect Borne Diseases**

Diseases that are spread by insects include the following: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever or Lyme Disease (tick); Bubonic and other forms of Plague (fleas); Malaria, West Nile Virus and Equine Encephalitis (mosquito) and Leshmaniasis (Sand Flies)

## **Tick Borne Diseases**

Lyme disease is the second most rapidly spreading disease in the U.S.

### **Lyme Disease**

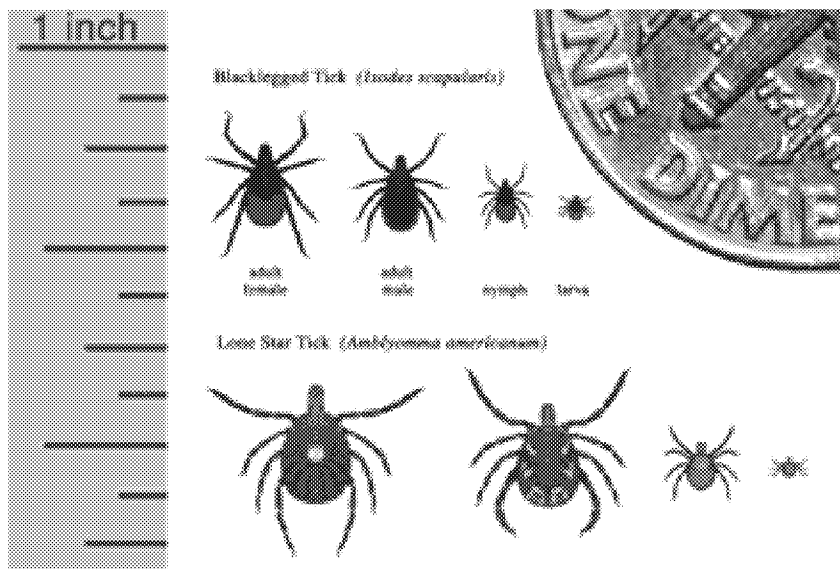
#### **1. Facts**

Definition:

- Bacterial infection transmitted by the bite of an infected black-legged tick more popularly known as the deer tick.
- Prevalence (nationwide and other countries).
- Three stages/sizes of deer ticks:
  - Larvae
  - Nymph
  - Adult

Tick season is May through October.

Not all ticks transmit Lyme disease (Black legged or deer tick [upper] compared to the Lone Star tick [lower])



- Ticks must be attached for several hours before Lyme disease can be transmitted.
- Being bitten by a tick does not mean you will get Lyme disease.

## 2. Prevention and Protection:

- Wear light-colored, tight-knit clothing.
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Tuck pant legs into shoes or boots.
- Wear a hat.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET (follow manufacturer's instructions for use on exposed skin).
- Use Permethrin-based repellent applied to clothing (follow manufacturer's instructions for use). This product kills and repels ticks. **DO NOT APPLY TO EXPOSED SKIN.**
- Check yourself daily for ticks after being in grassy, wooded areas.
- Request information from the Health and Safety Medical Section regarding Lyme disease.

## 3. If Bitten:

- Remove the tick immediately with fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull gently but firmly without twisting or crushing the tick.
- Wash your hands and dab the bite with an antiseptic.

- Save the tick in a jar in some alcohol. Label the jar with the date of the bite, the area where you picked up the tick and the spot on your body where you were bitten.
- Monitor the bite for any signs of infection or rash.

#### 4. Symptoms:

Early Signs (may vary from person to person)

- Expanding skin rash.
- Flu-like symptoms during summer or early fall that include the following:
  - Chills, fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes.
  - Stiff neck, aching joints, and muscles.
  - Fatigue.
- Later signs
  - Nervous system problems.
  - Heart problems.
  - Arthritis, especially in knees.

#### 5. Upon Onset of Symptoms:

- Notify your Safety Officer (SO) and your supervisor.

### **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has noted the increase of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) which is caused by bites from infected ticks that live in and near wooded areas, tall grass and brush.

RMSF has occurred in 36 states, with the heaviest concentrations in Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Rocky Mountain spotted fever is the most severe and most frequently reported rickettsial illness in the United States. It also occurs in Mexico and in Central and South America. It is caused by Rocky Mountain Wood Ticks and Dog Ticks that have become infected with rickettsia. Both are black in color.

The disease is caused by *Rickettsia rickettsii*, a species of bacteria that is spread to humans by ixodid (hard) ticks.

Initial signs and symptoms of the disease include sudden onset of fever, headache, and muscle pain, followed by development of rash. The disease can be difficult to diagnose in the early stages, and without prompt and appropriate treatment it can be fatal.

Prevention procedures are the same as for Lyme disease.





## Ehrlichiosis

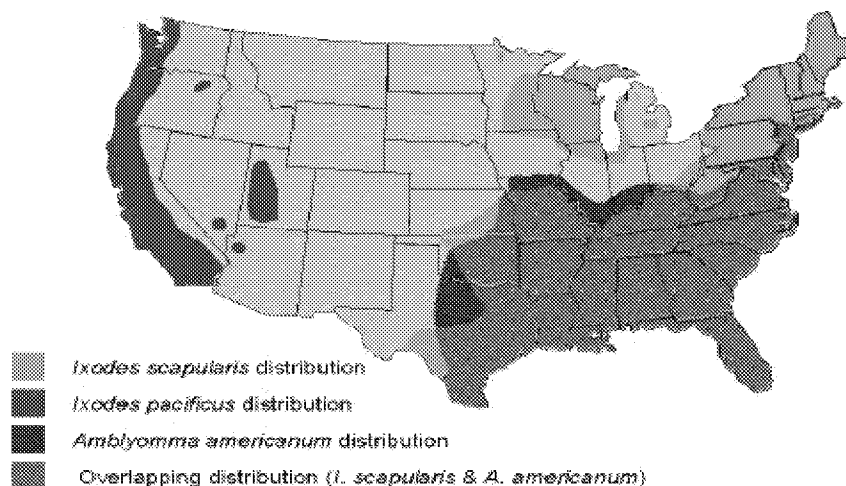
Ehrlichiosis is the general name used to describe several bacterial diseases that affect animals and humans. These diseases are caused by the organisms in the genus *Ehrlichia*. Worldwide, there are currently four ehrlichial species that are known to cause disease in humans.

In the United States, ehrlichiae are transmitted by the bite of an infected tick. The lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*), the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), and the western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) are known vectors of ehrlichiosis in the United States. *Ixodes ricinus* is the primary vector in Europe.

The symptoms of ehrlichiosis may resemble symptoms of various other infectious and non-infectious diseases. These clinical features generally include fever, headache, fatigue, and muscle aches. Other signs and symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, joint pains, confusion, and occasionally rash. Symptoms typically appear after an incubation period of 5-10 days following the tick bite. It is possible that many individuals who become infected with ehrlichiae do not become ill or they develop only very mild symptoms.

Most cases of ehrlichiosis are reported within the geographic distribution of the vector ticks (see map below). Occasionally, cases are reported from areas outside the distribution of the tick vector. In most instances, these cases have involved persons who traveled to areas where the diseases are endemic, and who had been bitten by an infected tick and developed symptoms after returning home. Therefore, if you traveled to an ehrlichiosis-endemic area 2 weeks prior to becoming ill, you should tell your doctor where you traveled.

**Figure 20. Areas where human ehrlichiosis may occur based on approximate distribution of vector tick species**



A diagnosis of ehrlichiosis is based on a combination of clinical signs and symptoms and confirmatory laboratory tests. Blood samples can be sent to a reference laboratory for testing. However, the availability of the different types of laboratory tests varies considerably. Other laboratory findings indicative of ehrlichiosis include low white blood cell count, low platelet count, and elevated liver enzymes.

Ehrlichiosis is treated with a tetracycline antibiotic, usually doxycycline.

Very little is known about immunity to ehrlichial infections. Although it has been proposed that infection with ehrlichiae confers long-term protection against reinfection, there have been occasional reports of laboratory-confirmed reinfection. Short-term protection has been described in animals infected with some *Ehrlichia* species and this protection wanes after about 1 year. Clearly, more studies are needed to determine the extent and duration of protection against reinfection in humans.

Limiting exposure to ticks reduces the likelihood of infection in persons exposed to tick-infested habitats. Prompt careful inspection of your body and removal of crawling or attached ticks is an important method of preventing disease. It may take 24–48 hours of attachment before microorganisms are transmitted from the tick to you.

### **Preventive measures - Follow protection protocols for Lyme disease**

#### **Babesiosis**

Babesiosis is an intraerythrocytic parasitic infection caused by protozoa of the genus *Babesia* and transmitted through the bite of the *Ixodes* tick, the same vector responsible for transmission of Lyme disease. While most cases are tick-borne, transfusion and transplacental transmission have been reported. In the United States, babesiosis is usually an asymptomatic infection in healthy individuals. Several groups of patients become symptomatic, and, within these subpopulations, significant morbidity and mortality occur. The disease most severely affects patients who are elderly, immunocompromised, or asplenic. Among those symptomatically infected, the mortality rate is 10% in the United States and 50% in Europe.

The primary vectors of the parasite are ticks of the genus *Ixodes*. In the United States, the black-legged tick, *Ixodes scapularis* (also known as *Ixodes dammini*) is the primary vector for the parasite; in Europe, *Ixodes ricinus* appears to be the primary tick vector. In each location, the *Ixodes* tick vector for *Babesia* is the same vector that locally transmits *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the agent implicated in Lyme disease. The primary US animal reservoir is the white-footed mouse, *Peromyscus leucopus*. Additionally, white-tailed deer serve as transport hosts for the adult tick vector, *I. scapularis*. In Europe, the primary animal reservoir is cattle.

The Ixodid ticks ingest *Babesia* during feeding from the host, multiply the protozoa in their gut wall, and concentrate it in their salivary glands. The tick inoculates a new host when feeding again. The parasite then infects red blood cells (RBCs) and differentiated and undifferentiated trophozoites are produced. The former produce 2–4 merozoites that disrupt the RBC and go on to invade other RBCs. This leads to hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, and atypical lymphocyte formation. Alterations in RBC membranes cause decreased conformability and increased red cell adherence, which can lead to development of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) among those severely affected.

The first US case of babesiosis was reported on Nantucket Island in 1966. An increasing trend over the past 30 years may be the result of restocking of the deer population, curtailment of hunting, and an increase in outdoor recreational activities. Between 1968 and 1993, more than 450 cases of *Babesia* infections were confirmed in the United States. However, the actual prevalence of this disease is unknown because most infected patients are asymptomatic.

The first case of human babesiosis was reported in 1957 from the former Yugoslavia in an asplenic farmer. Approximately 40 cases have been reported since then, mostly in Ireland, the United Kingdom, and France. Sporadic case reports of babesiosis in Japan, Korea, China, Mexico, South Africa, and Egypt have also been documented.

The signs and symptoms mimic malaria and range in severity from asymptomatic to septic shock.

Symptoms include: Generalized weakness, fatigue, depression, fever, anorexia and weight loss, CNS - Headache, photophobia, neck stiffness, altered sensorium, pulmonary - Cough, shortness of breath, GI - Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, Musculoskeletal - Arthralgia and myalgia and Renal - Dark urine

## **Prevention**

Prevention measures are the same as for Lyme and other insect borne diseases

## **Tularemia**

**Tularemia** (also known as "rabbit fever") is a serious infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Francisella tularensis*. The disease is endemic in North America, and parts of Europe and Asia. The primary vectors are ticks and deer flies, but the disease can also be spread through other arthropods. Animals such as rabbits, prairie dogs, hares and muskrats serve as reservoir hosts. The disease is named after Tulare County, California.

Depending on the site of infection, tularemia has six characteristic clinical syndromes: ulceroglandular, glandular, oropharyngeal, pneumonic, oculoglandular, and typhoidal.

The disease has a very rapid onset, with headache, fatigue, dizziness, muscle pains, loss of appetite and nausea. Face and eyes redden and become inflamed. Inflammation spreads to the lymph nodes, which enlarge and may suppurate (mimicking bubonic plague). Lymph node involvement is accompanied by a high fever. Death may result.

*Francisella tularensis* is one of the most infective bacteria known; fewer than ten organisms can cause disease leading to severe illness. The bacteria penetrate into the body through damaged skin and mucous membranes, or through inhalation. Humans are most often infected by tick bite or through handling an infected animal. Ingesting infected water, soil, or food can also cause infection. Tularemia can also be acquired by inhalation; hunters are at a higher risk for this

disease because of the potential of inhaling the bacteria during the skinning process. Tularemia is not spread directly from person to person.

No vaccine is available to the general public The best way to prevent tularemia infection is to wear rubber gloves when handling or skinning rodents or lagomorphs (as rabbits), avoid ingesting uncooked wild game and untreated water sources, and wearing long-sleeved clothes and using an insect repellent to prevent tick bites.

## Prevention

No vaccine is available to the general public The best way to prevent tularemia infection is to wear rubber gloves when handling or skinning rodents or lagomorphs (as rabbits), avoid ingesting uncooked wild game and untreated water sources, and wearing long-sleeved clothes and using an insect repellent to prevent tick bites.

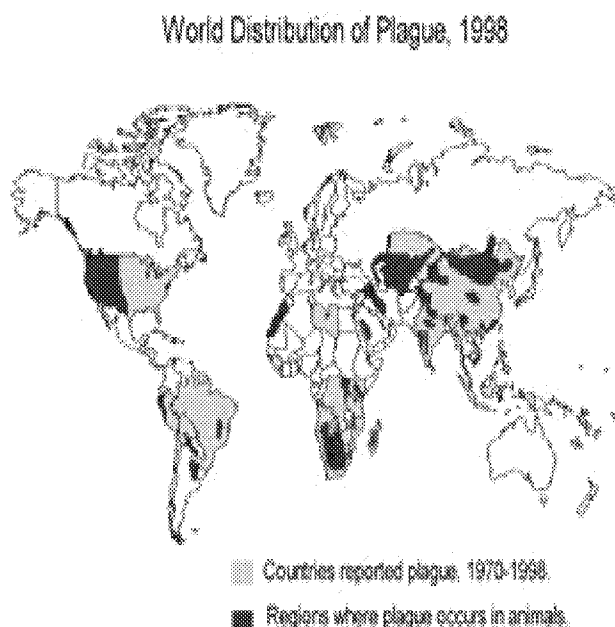
## Flea Borne Diseases

### Plague

- **Bubonic plague:** enlarged, tender lymph nodes, fever, chills and prostration
- **Septicemic plague:** fever, chills, prostration, abdominal pain, shock and bleeding into skin and other organs
- **Pneumonic plague:** fever, chills, cough and difficulty breathing; rapid shock and death if not treated early

**Introduction:** Plague is an infectious disease of animals and humans caused by a bacterium named *Yersinia pestis*.

People usually get plague from being bitten by a rodent flea that is carrying the plague bacterium or by handling an infected animal. Millions of people in Europe died from plague in the Middle Ages, when human homes and places of work were inhabited by flea-infested rats. Today, modern antibiotics are effective against plague, but if an infected person is not treated promptly, the disease is likely to cause illness or death.



**Risk:** Wild rodents in certain areas around the world are infected with plague. Outbreaks in people still occur in rural communities or in cities. They are usually associated with infected rats and rat fleas that live in the home. In the United States, the last urban plague epidemic occurred in Los Angeles in 1924-25. Since then, human plague in the United States has occurred as mostly scattered cases in rural areas (an average of 10 to 15 persons each year). Globally, the

World Health Organization reports 1,000 to 3,000 cases of plague every year. In North America, plague is found in certain animals and their fleas from the Pacific Coast to the Great Plains, and from southwestern Canada to Mexico. Most human cases in the United States occur in two regions: 1) northern New Mexico, northern Arizona, and southern Colorado; and 2) California, southern Oregon, and far western Nevada. Plague also exists in Africa, Asia, and South America (see map).

**Diagnosis:** The typical sign of the most common form of human plague is a swollen and very tender lymph gland, accompanied by pain. The swollen gland is called a "bubo." Bubonic plague should be suspected when a person develops a swollen gland, fever, chills, headache, and extreme exhaustion, and has a history of possible exposure to infected rodents, rabbits, or fleas.

A person usually becomes ill with bubonic plague 2 to 6 days after being infected. When bubonic plague is left untreated, plague bacteria invade the bloodstream. As the plague bacteria multiply in the bloodstream, they spread rapidly throughout the body and cause a severe and often fatal condition. Infection of the lungs with the plague bacterium causes the pneumonic form of plague, a severe respiratory illness. The infected person may experience high fever, chills, cough, and breathing difficulty and may expel bloody sputum. If plague patients are not given specific antibiotic therapy, the disease can progress rapidly to death. About 14% (1 in 7) of all plague cases in the United States are fatal.

## **Prevention and Control**

**Risk reduction:** Attempts to eliminate fleas and wild rodents from the natural environment in plague-infected areas are impractical. However, controlling rodents and their fleas around places where people live, work, and play is very important in preventing human disease. Therefore, preventive measures are directed to home, work, and recreational settings where the risk of acquiring plague is high. A combined approach using the following methods is recommended: environmental sanitation educating the public on ways to prevent plague exposures preventive antibiotic therapy

**Environmental Sanitation:** Effective environmental sanitation reduces the risk of persons being bitten by infectious fleas of rodents and other animals in places where people live, work, and recreate. It is important to remove food sources used by rodents and make homes, buildings, warehouses, or feed sheds rodent-proof. Applying chemicals that kill fleas and rodents is effective but should usually be done by trained professionals. Rats that inhabit ships and docks should also be controlled by trained professionals who can inspect and, if necessary, fumigate cargoes.

**Public Health Education:** In the western United States, where plague is widespread in wild rodents, people living, working, or playing where the infection is active face the greatest threat. Educating the general public and the medical community about how to avoid exposure to disease-bearing animals and their fleas is very important and should include the following preventive recommendations:

- Watch for plague activity in rodent populations where plague is known to occur. Report any observations of sick or dead animals to the local health department or law enforcement officials.
- Eliminate sources of food and nesting places for rodents around homes, work places, and recreation areas; remove brush, rock piles, junk, cluttered firewood, and potential-food supplies, such as pet and wild animal food. Make your home rodent-proof.
- If you anticipate being exposed to rodent fleas, apply insect repellents to clothing and skin, according to label instructions, to prevent flea bites. Wear gloves and tyvek coveralls when handling potentially infected animals.
- If you live in areas where rodent plague occurs, treat pet dogs and cats for flea control regularly and not allow these animals to roam freely.
- Health authorities may use appropriate chemicals to kill fleas at selected sites during animal plague outbreaks.

**Prophylactic (preventive) antibiotics:** Health authorities advise that antibiotics be given for a brief period to people who have been exposed to the bites of potentially infected rodent fleas (for example, during a plague outbreak) or who have handled an animal known to be infected with the plague bacterium. Such experts also recommend that antibiotics be given if a person has had close exposure to a person or an animal (for example, a house cat) with suspected plague pneumonia.

Persons who must be present in an area where a plague outbreak is occurring can protect themselves for 2 to 3 weeks by taking antibiotics. The preferred antibiotics for prophylaxis against plague are the tetracyclines or the sulfonamides.

### **Other diseases primarily transmitted by Arthropods (Ticks, mites, lice etc.)**

#### **Rickettsial Infections**

##### **Description**

Many species of *Rickettsia* can cause illnesses in humans (Table below). The term “rickettsiae” conventionally embraces a polyphyletic group of microorganisms in the class Proteobacteria, comprising species belonging to the genera *Rickettsia*, *Orientia*, *Ehrlichia*, *Anaplasma*, *Neorickettsia*, *Coxiella*, and *Bartonella*. These agents are usually not transmissible directly from person to person except by blood transfusion or organ transplantation, although sexual and placental transmission has been proposed for *Coxiella*. Transmission generally occurs via an infected arthropod vector or through exposure to an infected animal reservoir host.

Some of the diseases transmitted in this manner (Typhus, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Q Fever, Ehrlichiosis:) are discussed in detail in this and other Biological Hazard FLDs. A summary of these diseases is included in Attachment 1.

**Typhus** (Not to be confused with Typhoid Fever [discussed in these FLDs])

*For the unrelated disease caused by Salmonella typhi, see Typhoid fever. For the unrelated disease caused by Salmonella paratyphi, please refer to Paratyphoid fever. For the monster of Greek mythology, see Typhus (monster).*

**Typhus** is any one of several similar diseases caused by louse-borne bacteria. The name comes from the Greek *typhos*, meaning smoky or lazy, describing the state of mind of those affected with typhus. *Rickettsia* is endemic in rodent hosts, including mice and rats, and spreads to humans through mites, fleas and body lice. The arthropod vector flourishes under conditions of poor hygiene, such as those found in prisons or refugee camps, amongst the homeless, or until the middle of the 20th century, in armies in the field. In tropical countries, typhus is often mistaken for dengue fever

### Epidemic typhus

Epidemic typhus (also called "Jail Fever", "Hospital Fever", "Ship fever", "Famine fever", "Petechial Fever", and "louse-borne typhus") is so named because the disease often causes epidemics following wars and natural disasters. The causative organism is *Rickettsia prowazekii*, transmitted by the human body louse (*Pediculus humanus corporis*). Feeding on a human who carries the bacillus infects the louse. *R. prowazekii* grows in the louse's gut and is excreted in its feces. The disease is then transmitted to an uninfected human who scratches the louse bite (which itches) and rubs the feces into the wound. The incubation period is one to two weeks. *R. prowazekii* can remain viable and virulent in the dried louse feces for many days. Typhus will eventually kill the louse, though the disease will remain viable for many weeks in the dead louse.

The symptoms set in quickly, and are among the most severe of the typhus family. They include severe headache, a sustained high fever, cough, rash, severe muscle pain, chills, falling blood pressure, stupor, sensitivity to light, and delirium. A rash begins on the chest about five days after the fever appears, and spreads to the trunk and extremities but does not reach the palms and soles. A symptom common to all forms of typhus is a fever which may reach 39°C (102°F).

The infection is treated with antibiotics. Intravenous fluids and oxygen may be needed to stabilize the patient. The mortality rate is 10% to 60%, but is vastly lower if antibiotics such as tetracycline are used early. Infection can also be prevented via vaccination. Brill-Zinsser disease is a mild form of epidemic typhus which recurs in someone after a long period of latency (similar to the relationship between chickenpox and shingles). This type of recurrence can also occur in immunosuppressed patients.

### Endemic typhu

Endemic typhus (also called "flea-borne typhus" and "murine typhus" or "rat flea typhus") is caused by the bacteria *Rickettsia typhi*, and is transmitted by the fleas that infest rats. Less often, endemic typhus is caused by *Rickettsia felis* and transmitted by fleas carried by cats or possums.



Symptoms of endemic typhus include headache, fever, chills, myalgia, nausea, vomiting, and cough.

Endemic typhus is highly treatable with antibiotics. Most people recover fully, but death may occur in the elderly, severely disabled or patients with a depressed immune system.

### **Scrub typhus**

Scrub typhus (also called "chigger-borne typhus") is caused by *Orientia tsutsugamushi* and transmitted by chiggers, which are found in areas of heavy scrub vegetation. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, cough, and gastrointestinal symptoms. More virulent strains of *O. tsutsugamushi* can cause hemorrhaging and intravascular coagulation.

#### **Prevention**

Limiting exposures to vectors or animal reservoirs remains the best means for reducing the risk for disease. Travelers and persons working in areas where organisms may be present should implement prevention based on avoidance of vector-infested habitats, use of repellents and protective clothing, prompt detection and removal of arthropods from clothing and skin, and attention to hygiene.

Typhus fever was categorized by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as a Category B biological weapons agent. *Rickettsia prowazekii* is highly infectious and could be fatal but cannot be passed from person to person.

### **Encephalitis Arboviral Encephalitides**

#### **Perspectives**

Arthropod-borne viruses, i.e., arboviruses, are viruses that are maintained in nature through biological transmission between susceptible vertebrate hosts by blood feeding arthropods (mosquitoes, psychodids, ceratopogonids, and ticks). Vertebrate infection occurs when the infected arthropod takes a blood meal. The term 'arbovirus' has no taxonomic significance. Arboviruses that cause human encephalitis are members of three virus families: the *Togaviridae* (genus *Alphavirus*, *Flaviviridae*, and *Bunyaviridae*).

All arboviral encephalitides are zoonotic, being maintained in complex life cycles involving a nonhuman primary vertebrate host and a primary arthropod vector. These cycles usually remain undetected until humans encroach on a natural focus, or the virus escapes this focus via a secondary vector or vertebrate host as the result of some ecologic change. Humans and domestic animals can develop clinical illness but usually are "dead-end" hosts because they do not produce significant viremia, and do not contribute to the transmission cycle. Many arboviruses that cause encephalitis have a variety of different vertebrate hosts and some are transmitted by more than one vector. Maintenance of the viruses in nature may be facilitated by vertical transmission (e.g., the virus is transmitted from the female through the eggs to the offspring).

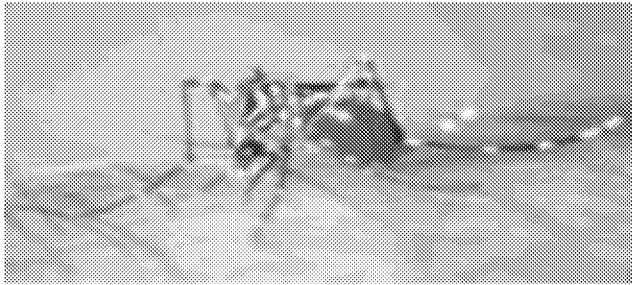
Arboviral encephalitides have a global distribution, but there are four main virus agents of encephalitis in the United States: eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), western equine encephalitis (WEE), St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) and La Crosse (LAC) encephalitis, all of which are transmitted by mosquitoes. Another virus, Powassan, is a minor cause of encephalitis in the northern United States, and is transmitted by ticks. A new Powassan-like virus has recently been isolated from deer ticks. Its relatedness to Powassan virus and its ability to cause disease has not been well documented. Most cases of arboviral encephalitis occur from June through September, when arthropods are most active. In milder (i.e., warmer) parts of the country, where arthropods are active late into the year, cases can occur into the winter months.

**There is expanded discussion of several of these diseases (West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis elsewhere in this document. A more general discussion is found in Attachment 2.**

## Mosquito Borne Diseases

### Malaria

**Malaria** is a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite. Four kinds of malaria parasites can infect humans: *Plasmodium falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *P. ovale*, and *P. malariae*.



People with malaria often experience fever, chills, and flu-like illness. Left untreated, they may develop severe complications and die. Each year 350-500 million cases of malaria occur worldwide, and over one million people die, most of them young children in sub-Saharan Africa. Infection with any of the malaria species can make a person feel very ill; infection with *P. falciparum*, if not promptly treated, may be fatal. Although malaria can be a fatal disease, illness and death from malaria are largely preventable.

This sometimes fatal disease can be prevented and cured. Bed nets, insecticides, and anti-malarial drugs are effective tools to fight malaria in areas where it is transmitted. Travelers to a malaria-risk area should avoid mosquito bites and take a preventive anti-malarial drug. Malaria was eradicated from the United States in the early 1950s. However, malaria is common in many developing countries and travelers who visit these areas risk getting malaria.

Returning travelers and arriving immigrants could also reintroduce the disease in the United States if they are infected with malaria when they return. The mosquito that transmits malaria, *Anopheles*, is found throughout much of the United States. If local mosquitoes bite an infected person, those mosquitoes can, in turn, infect local residents (*introduced malaria*).

Because the malaria parasite is found in red blood cells, malaria can also be transmitted through blood transfusion, organ transplant, or the shared use of needles or syringes contaminated with blood. Malaria may also be transmitted from a mother to her fetus before or during delivery ("congenital" malaria).

Malaria is not transmitted from person to person like a cold or the flu. You cannot get malaria from casual contact with malaria-infected people.

### Prevention and control

You can prevent malaria by:

- keeping mosquitoes from biting you, especially at night
- taking anti-malarial drugs to kill the parasites
- eliminating places where mosquitoes breed
- spraying insecticides on walls to kill adult mosquitoes that come inside
- sleeping under bed nets - especially effective if they have been treated with insecticide,
- wearing insect repellent and long-sleeved clothing if out of doors at night

The surest way for you and your health-care provider to know whether you have malaria is to have a diagnostic test where a drop of your blood is examined under the microscope for the presence of malaria parasites. If you are sick and there is any suspicion of malaria (for example, if you have recently traveled in a malaria-risk area) the test should be performed without delay.

The disease should be treated early in its course, before it becomes severe and poses a risk to the patient's life. Several good anti-malarial drugs are available, and should be administered early on. The most important step is to think about malaria, so that the disease is diagnosed and treated in time.

### **West Nile Virus**

West Nile virus (WNV) is a potentially serious illness. Experts believe WNV is established as a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall. This fact sheet contains important information that can help you recognize and prevent WNV.

The easiest and best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites.

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient. Follow the directions on the package.
- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.
- Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from buckets, barrels and drainage ditches.

About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected have symptoms such as fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the

chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days, though even healthy people have become sick for several weeks.

Approximately 80 percent of people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all.

Most often, WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite.

In a very small number of cases, WNV also has been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breastfeeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby.

WNV is not spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus.

Symptoms typically develop between 3 - 14 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. In cases with milder symptoms, people experience symptoms such as fever and aches that pass on their own, although even healthy people have become sick for several weeks. In more severe cases, people usually need to go to the hospital where they can receive supportive treatment including intravenous fluids, help with breathing and nursing care.

Milder WNV illness improves on its own, and people do not necessarily need to seek medical attention for this infection though they may choose to do so. If you develop symptoms of severe WNV illness, such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, seek medical attention immediately. Severe WNV illness usually requires hospitalization. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are encouraged to talk to their doctor if they develop symptoms that could be WNV. People over the age of 50 are more likely to develop serious symptoms of WNV if they do get sick and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.

The more time you're outdoors, the more time you could be bitten by an infected mosquito. Pay attention to avoiding mosquito bites if you spend a lot of time outside, either working or playing.

All donated blood is checked for WNV before being used. The risk of getting WNV through blood transfusions and organ transplants is very small, and should not prevent people who need surgery from having it. If you have concerns, talk to your doctor.

## **Equine Encephalitis**

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is a mosquito-borne viral disease. EEE virus (EEEV) occurs in the eastern half of the United States where it causes disease in humans, horses, and some bird species. Because of the high mortality rate, EEE is regarded as one of the most serious mosquito-borne diseases in the United States.

EEEV is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. It generally takes from

3 to 10 days to develop symptoms of EEE after being bitten by an infected mosquito. The main EEEV transmission cycle is between birds and mosquitoes.

Many species of mosquitoes can become infected with EEEV. The most important mosquito species in maintaining the bird-mosquito transmission cycle is *Culiseta melanura*, which reproduces in freshwater hardwood swamps. *Culiseta melanura*, however, is not considered to be an important vector of EEEV to horses or humans because it feeds almost exclusively on birds.

Transmission to horses or humans requires mosquito species capable of creating a “bridge” between infected birds and uninfected mammals such as some *Aedes*, *Coquillettidia*, and *Culex* species.

Horses are susceptible to EEE and some cases are fatal. EEEV infections in horses, however, are not a significant risk factor for human infection because horses are considered to be “dead-end” hosts for the virus (i.e., the amount of EEEV in their bloodstreams is usually insufficient to infect mosquitoes).

Eastern equine encephalitis virus is a member of the family Togaviridae, genus *Alphavirus* closely related to Western equine encephalitis virus and Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus

Many persons infected with EEEV have no apparent illness. In those persons who do develop illness, symptoms range from mild flu-like illness to inflammation of the brain, coma and death.

The mortality rate from EEE is approximately one-third, making it one of the most deadly mosquito-borne diseases in the United States.

There is no specific treatment for EEE; optimal medical care includes hospitalization and supportive care (for example, expert nursing care, respiratory support, prevention of secondary bacterial infections, and physical therapy, depending on the situation).

Approximately half of those persons who survive EEE will have mild to severe permanent neurologic damage.

Incidence rate includes:

- Approximately 220 confirmed cases in the US 1964-2004, Average of 5 cases/year, with a range from 0-15 cases
- States with largest number of cases are Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, and New Jersey.
- EEEV transmission is most common in and around freshwater hardwood swamps in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast states and the Great Lakes region.
- Human cases occur relatively infrequently, largely because the primary transmission cycle takes place in and around swampy areas where human populations tend to be limited.

## **Risk Groups:**

- Residents of and visitors to endemic areas (areas with an established presence of the virus)
- People who engage in outdoor work and recreational activities in endemic areas.
- Persons over age 50 and younger than age 15 seem to be at greatest risk for developing severe EEE when infected with the virus.

## **Prevention**

- A vaccine is available to protect equines.
- People should avoid mosquito bites by employing personal and workplace protection measures, such as using an EPA-registered repellent according to manufacturers' instructions, wearing protective clothing, avoiding outdoor activity when mosquitoes are active (some bridge vectors of EEEV are aggressive day-biters), and removing standing water that can provide mosquito breeding sites.
- There are laboratory tests to diagnosis EEEV infection including serology, especially IgM testing of serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), and neutralizing antibody testing of acute- and convalescent-phase serum.

## **Yellow Fever**

Yellow fever is an acute viral disease. It is an important cause of hemorrhagic illness in many African and South American countries despite existence of an effective vaccine. The *yellow* refers to the jaundice symptoms that affect some patients.

Yellow fever is caused by an arbovirus of the family Flaviviridae, a positive single-stranded RNA virus. Human infection begins after deposition of viral particles through the skin in infected arthropod saliva. The mosquitos involved are *Aedes simpsoni*, *A. africanus*, and *A. aegypti* in Africa, the *Haemagogus* genus in South America.

The virus remains silent in the body during an incubation period of three to six days. There are then two disease phases. While some infections have no symptoms the first, *acute* phase is normally characterized by fever, muscle pain (with prominent backache), headache, shivers, loss of appetite, and nausea or vomiting. The high fever is often paradoxically associated with a slow pulse (known as Faget's sign). After three or four days most patients improve and their symptoms disappear.

Fifteen percent of patients, however, enter a *toxic phase* within 24 hours. Fever reappears and several body systems are affected. The patient rapidly develops jaundice and complains of abdominal pain with vomiting. Bleeding can occur from the mouth, nose, eyes, and stomach. Once this happens, blood appears in the vomit and feces. Kidney function deteriorates; this can range from abnormal protein levels in the urine (proteinuria) to complete kidney failure with no

urine production (anuria). Half of the patients in the "toxic phase" die within fourteen days. The remainder recover without significant organ damage.

Yellow fever is difficult to recognize, especially during the early stages. It can easily be confused with malaria, typhoid, rickettsial diseases, haemorrhagic viral fevers (e.g. Lassa), arboviral infections (e.g. dengue), leptospirosis, viral hepatitis and poisoning (e.g. carbon tetrachloride). A laboratory analysis is required to confirm a suspect case.

### **Prevention**

There is a vaccine for yellow fever that gives a ten-year or more immunity from the disease and effectively protects people traveling to affected areas. The vaccination may be required for entry to some countries, however, the vaccine may be contra-indicated for person over 60 years of age.

Use precautions as for other mosquito borne diseases. Avoid mosquito bites by employing personal and workplace protection measures, such as using an EPA-registered repellent according to manufacturers' instructions, wearing protective clothing, avoiding outdoor activity when mosquitoes are active and removing standing water that can provide mosquito breeding sites.

### **Meningitis**

Meningitis is a viral disease that can affect the central nervous system.

Meningitis is encountered in agricultural regions of Asia.

Meningitis is transmitted through the bite from an infected mosquito.

Symptoms can be nonexistent or severe and flu-like, with fever, chills, tiredness, headache, nausea and vomiting. If not treated promptly the disease can be fatal.

### **Prevention**

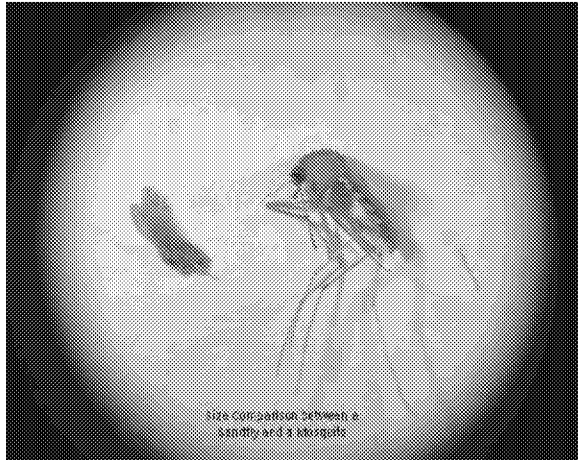
- A vaccine is available. It's 80% effective after a single dose and 97.5% effective after a second dose.

Use precautions as for other mosquito borne diseases. Avoid mosquito bites by employing personal and workplace protection measures, such as using an EPA-registered repellent according to manufacturers' instructions, wearing protective clothing, avoiding outdoor activity when mosquitoes are active and removing standing water that can provide mosquito breeding sites.



## Sand Flies

### Leishmaniasis



Sand Fly and Mosquito



Sand Fly

Leishmaniasis (LEASH-ma-NIGH-a-sis) is a parasitic disease spread by the bite of infected sand flies. There are several different forms of leishmaniasis. The most common forms are **cutaneous leishmaniasis**, which causes skin sores, and **visceral leishmaniasis**, which affects some of the internal organs of the body (for example, spleen, liver, bone marrow).

People who have cutaneous leishmaniasis have one or more sores on their skin. The sores can change in size and appearance over time. They often end up looking somewhat like a volcano, with a raised edge and central crater. Some sores are covered by a scab. The sores can be painless or painful. Some people have swollen glands near the sores (for example, under the arm if the sores are on the arm or hand).

People who have visceral leishmaniasis usually have fever, weight loss, and an enlarged spleen and liver (usually the spleen is bigger than the liver). Some patients have swollen glands. Certain blood tests are abnormal. For example, patients usually have low blood counts, including a low red blood cell count (anemia), low white blood cell count, and low platelet count.

The number of new cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis each year in the world is thought to be about 1.5 million. The number of new cases of visceral leishmaniasis is thought to be about 500,000.

Leishmaniasis is found in parts of about 88 countries. Approximately 350 million people live in these areas. Most of the affected countries are in the tropics and subtropics. The settings in which leishmaniasis is found range from rain forests in Central and South America to deserts in West Asia. More than 90 percent of the world's cases of visceral leishmaniasis are in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sudan, and Brazil.

Leishmaniasis is found in some parts of the following areas:

- in Mexico, Central America, and South America -- from northern Argentina to Texas (not in Uruguay, Chile, or Canada)
- southern Europe (leishmaniasis is not common in travelers to southern Europe)
- Asia (not Southeast Asia)
- the Middle East
- Africa (particularly East and North Africa, with some cases elsewhere)

Leishmaniasis is not found in Australia or Oceania (that is, islands in the Pacific, including Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia).

It is possible but very unlikely that you would get leishmaniasis in the United States. Very rarely, people living in Texas have developed skin sores from cutaneous leishmaniasis.

No cases of visceral leishmaniasis are known to have been acquired in the United States.

Leishmaniasis is spread by the bite of some types of phlebotomine sand flies. Sand flies become infected by biting an infected animal (for example, a rodent or dog) or person. Since sand flies do not make noise when they fly, people may not realize they are present. Sand flies are very small and may be hard to see; they are only about one-third the size of typical mosquitoes. Sand flies usually are most active in twilight, evening, and night-time hours (from dusk to dawn). Sand flies are less active during the hottest time of the day. However, they will bite if they are disturbed, such as when a person brushes up against the trunk of a tree where sand flies are resting. Rarely, leishmaniasis is spread from a pregnant woman to her baby. Leishmaniasis also can be spread by blood transfusions or contaminated needles.

People of all ages are at risk for leishmaniasis if they live or travel where leishmaniasis is found. Leishmaniasis usually is more common in rural than urban areas; but it is found in the outskirts of some cities. The risk for leishmaniasis is highest from dusk to dawn because this is when sand flies are the most active. All it takes to get infected is to be bitten by one infected sand fly. This is more likely to happen the more people are bitten, that is, the more time they spend outside in rural areas from dusk to dawn.

People with cutaneous leishmaniasis usually develop skin sores within a few weeks (sometimes as long as months) of when they were bitten.

People with visceral leishmaniasis usually become sick within several months (rarely as long as years) of when they were bitten.

The skin sores of cutaneous leishmaniasis will heal on their own, but this can take months or even years. The sores can leave ugly scars. If not treated, infection that started in the skin rarely spreads to the nose or mouth and causes sores there (**mucosal leishmaniasis**). This can happen with some of the types of the parasite found in Central and South America. Mucosal leishmaniasis might not be noticed until years after the original skin sores healed. The best way to prevent mucosal leishmaniasis is to treat the cutaneous infection before it spreads.

If not treated, visceral leishmaniasis can cause death. It is very rare for travelers to get visceral leishmaniasis.

If you think you might have leishmaniasis, report to your Safety Officer to ensure appropriate follow-up. The first step is to find out if you have traveled to a part of the world where leishmaniasis is found. The health care provider will ask you about any signs or symptoms of leishmaniasis you may have, such as skin sores that have not healed. If you have skin sores, the health care provider will likely want to take some samples directly from the sores. These samples can be examined for the parasite under a microscope, in cultures, and through other means. A blood test for detecting antibody (immune response) to the parasite can be helpful, particularly for cases of visceral leishmaniasis. However, tests to look for the parasite itself should also be done. Diagnosing leishmaniasis can be difficult. Sometimes the laboratory tests are negative even if a person has leishmaniasis.

The health care provider can talk with CDC staff about whether a case of leishmaniasis should be treated, and, if so, how. Most people who have cutaneous leishmaniasis do not need to be hospitalized during their treatment.

## **Prevention**

The best way prevent leishmaniasis is by protecting against sand fly bites. Vaccines and drugs for preventing infection are not yet available. To decrease risk of being bitten:

- Stay in well-screened or air-conditioned areas as much as possible. Avoid outdoor activities, especially from dusk to dawn, when sand flies are the most active.
- When outside, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks. Tuck your shirt into your pants.
- Apply insect repellent on uncovered skin and under the ends of sleeves and pant legs. Follow the instructions on the label of the repellent. The most effective repellents are those that contain the chemical DEET (N,N-diethylmetatoluamide). The concentration of DEET varies among repellents. Repellents with DEET concentrations of 30-35% are quite effective, and the effect should last about 4 hours. Lower concentrations should be used for children (no more than 10% DEET). Repellents with DEET should be used sparingly on children from 2 to 6 years old and not at all on children less than 2 years old.
- Spray clothing with permethrin-containing insecticides. The insecticide should be reapplied after every five washings.
- Spray living and sleeping areas with an insecticide to kill insects.
- If you are not sleeping in an area that is well screened or air-conditioned, use a bed net and tuck it under your mattress. If possible, use a bed net that has been soaked in or sprayed with permethrin. The permethrin will be effective for several months if the bed net is not washed. Keep in mind that sand flies are much smaller than mosquitoes and therefore can get through

smaller holes. Fine-mesh netting (at least 18 holes to the inch; some sources say even finer) is needed for an effective barrier against sand flies. This is particularly important if the bed net has not been treated with permethrin. However, it may be uncomfortable to sleep under such a closely woven bed net when it is hot.

**NOTE:** Bed nets, repellents containing DEET, and permethrin may need to be purchased before traveling and can be found in hardware, camping, and military surplus stores.

**Deer Flies (See Tularemia above)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**RICKETTSIAL INFECTIONS**

## **Rickettsial Infections**

### **Description**

Many species of *Rickettsia* can cause illnesses in humans (Table below). The term “rickettsiae” conventionally embraces a polyphyletic group of microorganisms in the class Proteobacteria, comprising species belonging to the genera *Rickettsia*, *Orientia*, *Ehrlichia*, *Anaplasma*, *Neorickettsia*, *Coxiella*, and *Bartonella*. These agents are usually not transmissible directly from person to person except by blood transfusion or organ transplantation, although sexual and placental transmission has been proposed for *Coxiella*. Transmission generally occurs via an infected arthropod vector or through exposure to an infected animal reservoir host. However, sennetsu fever is acquired following consumption of raw fish products. The clinical severity and duration of illnesses associated with different rickettsial infections vary considerably, even within a given antigenic group. Rickettsioses range in severity from diseases that are usually relatively mild (rickettsialpox, cat scratch disease, and African tick-bite fever) to those that can be life-threatening (epidemic and murine typhus, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, scrub typhus and Oroya fever), and they vary in duration from those that can be self-limiting to chronic (Q fever and bartonellosis) or recrudescent (Brill-Zinsser disease). Most patients with rickettsial infections recover with timely use of appropriate antibiotic therapy.

Travelers may be at risk for exposure to agents of rickettsial diseases if they engage in occupational or recreational activities which bring them into contact with habitats that support the vectors or animal reservoir species associated with these pathogens.

The geographic distribution and the risks for exposure to rickettsial agents are described below and in the Table below.

### **Epidemic Typhus and Trench Fever**

Epidemic typhus and trench fever, which are caused by *Rickettsia prowazkeii* and *Bartonella quintana*, respectively, are transmitted from one person to another by the human body louse. Contemporary outbreaks of both diseases are rare in most developed countries and generally occur only in communities and populations in which body louse infestations are frequent, especially during the colder months when louse-infested clothing is not laundered. Foci of trench fever have also been recognized among homeless populations in urban centers of industrialized countries. Travelers who are not at risk of exposure to body lice or to persons with lice are unlikely to acquire these illnesses. However, health-care workers who care for these patients may be at risk for acquiring louse-borne illnesses through inhalation or inoculation of infectious louse feces into the skin or conjunctiva. In the eastern United States, campers, inhabitants of wooded areas, and wildlife workers can acquire sylvatic epidemic typhus if they come in close contact with flying squirrels, their ectoparasites, or their nests, which can be made in houses, cabins, and tree-holes.

## Murine Typhus and Cat-Flea Rickettsiosis

Murine typhus, which is caused by infection with *Rickettsia typhi*, is transmitted to humans by rat fleas, particularly during exposure in rat-infested buildings (3). Flea-infested rats can be found throughout the year in humid tropical environments, especially in harbor or riverine environments. In temperate regions, they are most common during the warm summer months. Similarly, cat-flea rickettsiosis, which is caused by infection with *Rickettsia felis*, occurs worldwide from exposure to flea-infested domestic cats and dogs, as well as peridomestic animals, and is responsible for a murine typhus-like febrile disease in humans.

## Scrub Typhus

Mites (“chiggers”) transmit *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, the agent of scrub typhus, to humans. These mites occur year-round in a large area from South Asia to Australia and in much of East Asia, including Japan, China, Korea, Maritime Provinces and Sakhalin Island of Russia, and Tajikistan. Their prevalence, however, fluctuates with temperature and rainfall. Infection may occur on coral atolls in both the Indian and Pacific Oceans, in rice paddies and along canals and fields, on oil palm plantations, in tropical to desert climates and in elevated river valleys. Humans typically encounter the arthropod vector of scrub typhus in recently disturbed habitat (e.g., forest clearings) or other persisting mite foci infested with rats and other rodents.

## Tick-Borne Rickettsioses

Tick-borne rickettsial diseases are most common in temperate and subtropical regions. These diseases include numerous well-known classical spotted fever rickettsioses and an expanding group of newly recognized diseases (Table below). In general, peak transmission of tick-borne rickettsial pathogens occurs during spring and summer months. Travelers who participate in outdoor activities in grassy or wooded areas (e.g., trekking, camping, or going on safari) may be at risk for acquiring tick-borne illnesses, including those caused by *Rickettsia*, *Anaplasma*, and *Ehrlichia* species (see below).

TABLE Epidemiologic features and symptoms of rickettsial diseases

ANTIGENIC GROUP	DISEASE	AGENT	PREDOMINANT SYMPTOMS*	VECTOR OR ACQUISITION MECHANISM	ANIMAL RESERVOIR	GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE THE US
Typhus fevers	Epidemic typhus,	<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>	Headache, chills, fever, prostration, confusion, photophobia, vomiting, rash (generally starting on trunk)	Human body louse, squirrel flea and louse	Humans, flying squirrels (US)	Cool mountainous regions of Africa, Asia, and Central and South America
	Sylvatic typhus					
	Murine typhus	<i>R. typhi</i>	As above, generally less severe	Rat flea	Rats, mice	Worldwide
Spotted fevers	African tickbite fever	<i>R. africae</i>	Fever, eschar(s), regional adenopathy,	Tick	Rodents	Sub-Saharan Africa

ANTIGENIC GROUP	DISEASE	AGENT	PREDOMINANT SYMPTOMS*	VECTOR OR ACQUISITION MECHANISM	ANIMAL RESERVOIR	GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE THE US
			maculopapular or vesicular rash subtle or absent			
	Aneruptive fever	<i>R. helvetica</i>	Fever, headache, myalgia	Tick	Rodents	Old World
	Australian spotted fever	<i>R. marmionii</i>	Fever, eschar, maculopapular or vesicular rash, adenopathy	Tick	Rodents, reptiles	Australia
	Cat flea rickettsiosis	<i>R. felis</i>	As murine typhus, generally less severe	Cat and dog fleas	Domestic cats, opossums	Europe, South America
	Far Eastern spotted fever	<i>R. heilongjiangensis</i>	Fever, eschar, macular or maculopapular rash, lymphadenopathy, enlarged lymph nodes	Tick	Rodents	Far East of Russia, Northern China
	Flinders Island spotted fever, Thai tick typhus	<i>R. honei</i>	Mild spotted fever, eschar and adenopathy are rare	Tick	Not defined	Australia, Thailand
	Lymphangitis associated rickettsiosis	<i>R. sibirica</i> subsp. <i>mongolotimonae</i>	Fever, multiple eschars, regional adenopathy and lymphangitis, maculopapular rash	Tick	Rodents	Southern France, Portugal, Asia, Africa
	Maculatum infection	<i>R. parkeri</i>	Fever, eschar, rash maculopapular to vesicular	Tick	Rodents	Brazil, Uruguay
	Mediterranean spotted fevers,‡	<i>R. conorii</i>	Fever, eschar, regional adenopathy, maculopapular rash on extremities	Tick	Dogs, rodents	Africa, India, Europe, Middle East, Mediterranean
	North Asian tick typhus	<i>R. sibirica</i>	Fever, eschar(s), regional adenopathy, maculopapular rash	Tick	Rodents	Russia, China, Mongolia
	Oriental spotted fever	<i>R. japonica</i>	As above	Tick	Rodents	Japan
	Queensland tick	<i>R. australis</i>	Fever, eschar,	Tick	Not defined	Australia,



ANTIGENIC GROUP	DISEASE	AGENT	PREDOMINANT SYMPTOMS*	VECTOR OR ACQUISITION MECHANISM	ANIMAL RESERVOIR	GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE THE US
	typhus		regional adenopathy, rash on extremities			Tasmania
	Rickettsialpox	<i>R. akari</i>	Fever, eschar, adenopathy, disseminated vesicular rash	Mite	House mice	Russia, South Africa, Korea, Turkey, Balkan countries
	Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Sao Paulo exanthematic typhus, Minas Gerais exanthematic typhus, Brazilian spotted fever	<i>R. rickettsii</i>	Headache, fever, abdominal pain, macular rash progressing into papular or petechial (generally starting on extremities)	Tick	Rodents	Mexico, Central, and South America
	Tick-borne lymphadenopathy (TIBOLA), Dermacentor-borne necrosis and lymphadenopathy (DEBONEL)	<i>R. slovaca</i>	Necrosis erythema, cervical lymphadenopathy and enlarged lymph nodes, rare maculopapular rash	Tick	Lagomorphs, rodents	Europe, Asia
	Unnamed rickettsiosis	<i>R. aeschlimannii</i>	Fever, eschar, maculopapular rash	Tick	Domestic and wild animals	Africa
Orientia	Scrub typhus	<i>Orientia tsutsugamushi</i>	Fever, headache, sweating, conjunctival injection, adenopathy, eschar, rash (starting on trunk), respiratory distress	Mite	Rodents	South, Central, Eastern, and Southeast Asia and Australia
Coxiella	Q fever	<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	Fever, headache, chills, sweating, pneumonia, hepatitis, endocarditis	Most human infections are acquired by inhalation of infectious aerosols; tick	Goats, sheep, cattle, domestic cats, other	Worldwide

ANTIGENIC GROUP	DISEASE	AGENT	PREDOMINANT SYMPTOMS*	VECTOR OR ACQUISITION MECHANISM	ANIMAL RESERVOIR	GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE THE US
Bartonella	Cat-scratch disease	<i>Bartonella henselae</i>	Fever, adenopathy, neuroretinitis, encephalitis	Cat flea	Domestic cats	Worldwide
	Trench fever	<i>B. quintana</i>	Fever, headache, pain in shins, splenomegaly, disseminated rash	Human body louse	Humans	Worldwide
	Oroya fever	<i>B. bacilliformis</i>	Fever, headache, anemia, shifting joint and muscle pain, nodular dermal eruption	Sand fly	Unknown	Peru, Ecuador, Colombia
Ehrlichia	Ehrlichiosis	<i>Ehrlichia chaffeensis</i> <sup>#</sup>	Fever, headache, nausea, occasionally rash	Tick	Various large and small mammals, including deer and rodents	Worldwide
Anaplasma	Anaplasmosis	<i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i> <sup>#</sup>	Fever, headache, nausea, occasionally rash	Tick	Small mammals, and rodents	Europe, Asia, Africa
Neorickettsia	Sennetsu fever	<i>Neorickettsia sennetsu</i>	Fever, chills, headache, sore throat, insomnia	Fish, fluke	Fish	Japan, Malaysia

This represents only a partial list of symptoms. Patients may have different symptoms or only a few of those listed.

‡ Includes 4 different subspecies that can be distinguished serologically and by PCR assay, and respectively are the etiologic agents of Boutonneuse fever and Mediterranean tick fever in Southern Europe and Africa (*R. conorii* subsp. *conorii*), Indian tick typhus in South Asia (*R. conorii* subsp. *indica*), Israeli tick typhus in Southern Europe and Middle East (*R. conorii* subsp. *israelensis*), and Astrakhan spotted fever in the North Caspian region of Russia (*R. conorii* subsp. *caspiæ*).

# Organisms antigenically related to these species are associated with ehrlichial diseases outside the continental United States.

### Rickettsialpox

Rickettsialpox is generally an urban, mite-vector disease associated with *R. akari*-infected house mice, although feral rodent-mite reservoirs also have been described (3). Outbreaks of this illness have occurred shortly after rodent extermination programs or natural viral infections that depleted rodent populations and caused the mites to seek new hosts. *R. akari*-infected rodents have been found in urban centers in the former Soviet Union, South Africa, Korea, Croatia, and the United States. Travelers may be at risk for exposure to rodent mites when staying in old urban hostels and cabins.

## **Anaplasmosis and Ehrlichiosis**

Human ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis are acute tick-borne diseases, associated with the lone star tick, *Amblyomma americanum*, and *Ixodes* ticks, respectively. Because one tick may be infected with more than one tick-borne pathogen (e.g. *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease, or various *Babesia* species, agent of human babesiosis), patients may present with atypical clinical symptoms that complicate treatment. Ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis are characterized by infection of different types of leukocytes, where the causative agent multiplies in cytoplasmic membrane-bound vacuole called morulae. Morulae can sometimes be detected in Giemsa-stained blood smears.

## **Q FEVER**

Q fever occurs worldwide, most often in persons who have contact with infected goat, sheep, cat and cattle, particularly parturient animals (especially farmers, veterinarians, butchers, meat packers, and seasonal workers). Travelers who visit farms or rural communities can be exposed to *Coxiella burnetii*, the agent of Q fever, through airborne transmission (via animal-contaminated soil and dust) or less commonly through consumption of unpasteurized milk products or by exposure to infected ticks. These infections may initially result in only mild and self-limiting influenza-like illnesses, but if untreated, infections may become chronic, particularly in persons with preexisting heart valve abnormalities or with prosthetic valves. Such persons can develop chronic and potentially fatal endocarditis.

## **Cat-Scratch Disease and Oroya Fever**

Cat-scratch disease is contracted through scratches and bites from domestic cats, particularly kittens, infected with *Bartonella henselae*, and possibly from their fleas (3,4). Exposure can therefore occur wherever cats are found. Oroya fever is transmitted by sandflies infected with *B. bacilliformis*, which is endemic in the Andean highlands.

## **Symptoms**

Clinical presentations of rickettsial illnesses vary (Table above), but common early symptoms, including fever, headache, and malaise, are generally nonspecific. Illnesses resulting from infection with rickettsial agents may go unrecognized or are attributed to other causes. Atypical presentations are common and may be expected with poorly characterized non-indigenous agents, so appropriate samples for examination by specialized reference laboratories should be obtained. A diagnosis of rickettsial diseases is based on two or more of the following: 1) clinical symptoms and an epidemiologic history compatible with a rickettsial disease, 2) the development of specific convalescent-phase antibodies reactive with a given pathogen or antigenic group, 3) a positive polymerase chain reaction test result, 4) specific immunohistologic detection of rickettsial agent, or 5) isolation of a rickettsial agent. Ascertaining the likely place and the nature of potential exposures is particularly helpful for accurate diagnostic testing.

## Prevention

With the exception of the louse-borne diseases described above, for which contact with infectious arthropod feces is the primary mode of transmission (through autoinoculation into a wound, conjunctiva, or inhalation), travelers and health-care providers are generally not at risk for becoming infected via exposure to an ill person. Limiting exposures to vectors or animal reservoirs remains the best means for reducing the risk for disease. Travelers and persons working in areas where organisms may be present should implement prevention based on avoidance of vector-infested habitats, use of repellents and protective clothing, prompt detection and removal of arthropods from clothing and skin, and attention to hygiene.

Q fever and *Bartonella* group diseases may pose a special risk for persons with abnormal or prosthetic heart valves, and *Rickettsia*, *Ehrlichia*, and *Bartonella* for persons who are immunocompromised.

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **ENCEPHALITIS ARBOVIRAL ENCEPHALITIDES**

## Encephalitis Arboviral Encephalitides

### Perspectives

Arthropod-borne viruses, i.e., arboviruses, are viruses that are maintained in nature through biological transmission between susceptible vertebrate hosts by blood feeding arthropods (mosquitoes, psychodids, ceratopogonids, and ticks). Vertebrate infection occurs when the infected arthropod takes a blood meal. The term 'arbovirus' has no taxonomic significance. Arboviruses that cause human encephalitis are members of three virus families: the *Togaviridae* (genus *Alphavirus*, *Flaviviridae*, and *Bunyaviridae*).

All arboviral encephalitides are zoonotic, being maintained in complex life cycles involving a nonhuman primary vertebrate host and a primary arthropod vector. These cycles usually remain undetected until humans encroach on a natural focus, or the virus escapes this focus via a secondary vector or vertebrate host as the result of some ecologic change. Humans and domestic animals can develop clinical illness but usually are "dead-end" hosts because they do not produce significant viremia, and do not contribute to the transmission cycle. Many arboviruses that cause encephalitis have a variety of different vertebrate hosts and some are transmitted by more than one vector. Maintenance of the viruses in nature may be facilitated by vertical transmission (e.g., the virus is transmitted from the female through the eggs to the offspring).

Arboviral encephalitides have a global distribution, but there are four main virus agents of encephalitis in the United States: eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), western equine encephalitis (WEE), St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) and La Crosse (LAC) encephalitis, all of which are transmitted by mosquitoes. Another virus, Powassan, is a minor cause of encephalitis in the northern United States, and is transmitted by ticks. A new Powassan-like virus has recently been isolated from deer ticks. Its relatedness to Powassan virus and its ability to cause disease has not been well documented. Most cases of arboviral encephalitis occur from June through September, when arthropods are most active. In milder (i.e., warmer) parts of the country, where arthropods are active late into the year, cases can occur into the winter months.

The majority of human infections are asymptomatic or may result in a nonspecific flu-like syndrome. Onset may be insidious or sudden with fever, headache, myalgias, malaise and occasionally prostration. Infection may, however, lead to encephalitis, with a fatal outcome or permanent neurologic sequelae. Fortunately, only a small proportion of infected persons progress to frank encephalitis.

Experimental studies have shown that invasion of the central nervous system (CNS), generally follows initial virus replication in various peripheral sites and a period of viremia. Viral transfer from the blood to the CNS through the olfactory tract has been suggested. Because the arboviral encephalitides are viral diseases, antibiotics are not effective for treatment and no effective antiviral drugs have yet been discovered.

## Prevention

Arboviral encephalitis can be prevented in two major ways: personal protective measures and public health measures to reduce the population of infected mosquitoes. Personal measures include reducing time outdoors particularly in early evening hours, wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts and applying mosquito repellent to exposed skin areas. Public health measures often require spraying of insecticides to kill juvenile (larvae) and adult mosquitoes.

Selection of mosquito control methods depends on what needs to be achieved; but, in most emergency situations, the preferred method to achieve maximum results over a wide area is aerial spraying. In many states aerial spraying may be available in certain locations as a means to control nuisance mosquitoes. Such resources can be redirected to areas of virus activity. When aerial spraying is not routinely used, such services are usually contracted for a given time period. Financing of aerial spraying costs during large outbreaks is usually provided by state emergency contingency funds. Federal funding of emergency spraying is rare and almost always requires a federal disaster declaration. Such disaster declarations usually occur when the vector-borne disease has the potential to infect large numbers of people, when a large population is at risk and when the area requiring treatment is extensive. Special large planes maintained by the United States Air Force can be called upon to deliver the insecticide(s) chosen for such emergencies. Federal disaster declarations have relied heavily on risk assessment by the CDC.

There are no commercially available human vaccines for these U.S. diseases. There is a Japanese encephalitis vaccine available in the U.S. A tick-borne encephalitis vaccine is available in Europe. An equine vaccine is available for EEE, WEE and Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE).

## La Crosse Encephalitis

La Crosse (LAC) encephalitis was discovered in La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1963. Since then, the virus has been identified in several Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic states. During an average year, about 75 cases of LAC encephalitis are reported to the CDC. Most cases of LAC encephalitis occur in children under 16 years of age. LAC virus is a Bunyavirus and is a zoonotic pathogen cycled between the daytime-biting treehole mosquito, *Aedes triseriatus*, and vertebrate amplifier hosts (chipmunks, tree squirrels) in deciduous forest habitats. The virus is maintained over the winter by transovarial transmission in mosquito eggs. If the female mosquito is infected, she may lay eggs that carry the virus, and the adults coming from those eggs may be able to transmit the virus to chipmunks and to humans.

Historically, most cases of LAC encephalitis occur in the upper Midwestern states (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio). Recently, more cases are being reported from states in the mid-Atlantic (West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina) and southeastern (Alabama and Mississippi) regions of the country. It has long been suspected that LAC encephalitis has a broader distribution and a higher incidence in the eastern United States, but is under-reported because the etiologic agent is often not specifically identified.

LAC encephalitis initially presents as a nonspecific summertime illness with fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and lethargy. Severe disease occurs most commonly in children under the age of 16 and is characterized by seizures, coma, paralysis, and a variety of neurological sequelae after recovery. Death from LAC encephalitis occurs in less than 1% of clinical cases. In many clinical settings, pediatric cases presenting with CNS involvement are routinely screened for herpes or enteroviral etiologies. Since there is no specific treatment for LAC encephalitis, physicians often do not request the tests required to specifically identify LAC virus, and the cases are reported as aseptic meningitis or viral encephalitis of unknown etiology. Also found in the United States, Jamestown Canyon and Cache Valley viruses are related to LAC, but rarely cause encephalitis.

### **Eastern Equine Encephalitis**

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is also caused by a virus transmitted to humans and equines by the bite of an infected mosquito. EEE virus is an alphavirus that was first identified in the 1930's and currently occurs in focal locations along the eastern seaboard, the Gulf Coast and some inland Midwestern locations of the United States. While small outbreaks of human disease have occurred in the United States, equine epizootics can be a common occurrence during the summer and fall.

It takes from 4-10 days after the bite of an infected mosquito for an individual to develop symptoms of EEE. These symptoms begin with a sudden onset of fever, general muscle pains, and a headache of increasing severity. Many individuals will progress to more severe symptoms such as seizures and coma. Approximately one-third of all people with clinical encephalitis caused by EEE will die from the disease and of those who recover, many will suffer permanent brain damage with many of those requiring permanent institutional care.

In addition to humans, EEE virus can produce severe disease in: horses, some birds such as pheasants, quail, ostriches and emus, and even puppies. Because horses are outdoors and attract hordes of biting mosquitoes, they are at high risk of contracting EEE when the virus is present in mosquitoes. Human cases are usually preceded by those in horses and exceeded in numbers by horse cases which may be used as a surveillance tool.

EEE virus occurs in natural cycles involving birds and *Culiseta melanura*, in some swampy areas nearly every year during the warm months. Where the virus resides or how it survives in the winter is unknown. It may be introduced by migratory birds in the spring or it may remain dormant in some yet undiscovered part of its life cycle. With the onset of spring, the virus reappears in the birds (native bird species do not seem to be affected by the virus) and mosquitoes of the swamp. In this usual cycle of transmission, virus does not escape from these areas because the mosquito involved prefers to feed upon birds and does not usually bite humans or other mammals.

For reasons not fully understood, the virus may escape from enzootic foci in swamp areas in birds or bridge vectors such as *Coquilletidia perturbans* and *Aedes sollicitans*. These species feed on both birds and mammals and can transmit the virus to humans, horses, and other hosts. Other mosquito species such as *Ae. vexans* and *Culex nigripalpus* can also transmit EEE virus.



When health officials maintain surveillance for EEE virus activity, this movement out of the swamp can be detected, and if the level of activity is sufficiently high, can recommend and undertake measures to reduce the risk to humans.

### **Western Equine Encephalitis**

The alphavirus western equine encephalitis (WEE) was first isolated in California in 1930 from the brain of a horse with encephalitis, and remains an important cause of encephalitis in horses and humans in North America, mainly in western parts of the USA and Canada. In the western United States, the enzootic cycle of WEE involves passerine birds, in which the infection is inapparent, and culicine mosquitoes, principally *Cx. tarsalis*, a species that is associated with irrigated agriculture and stream drainages. The virus has also been isolated from a variety of mammal species. Other important mosquito vector species include *Aedes melanimon* in California, *Ae. dorsalis* in Utah and New Mexico and *Ae. campestris* in New Mexico.

Expansion of irrigated agriculture in the North Platte River Valley during the past several decades has created habitats and conditions favorable for increases in populations of granivorous birds such as the house sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, and mosquitoes such as *Cx. tarsalis*, *Aedes dorsalis* and *Aedes melanimon*. All of these species may play a role in WEE virus transmission in irrigated areas. In addition to *Cx. tarsalis*, *Ae. dorsalis* and *Ae. melanimon*, WEE virus also has been isolated occasionally from some other mosquito species present in the area. Two confirmed and several suspect cases of WEE were reported from Wyoming in 1994. In 1995, two strains of WEE virus were isolated from *Culex tarsalis* and neutralizing antibody to WEE virus was demonstrated in sera from pheasants and house sparrows. During 1997, 35 strains of WEE virus were isolated from mosquitoes collected in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska.

Human WEE cases are usually first seen in June or July. Most WEE infections are asymptomatic or present as mild, nonspecific illness. Patients with clinically apparent illness usually have a sudden onset with fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, anorexia and malaise, followed by altered mental status, weakness and signs of meningeal irritation. Children, especially those under 1 year old, are affected more severely than adults and may be left with permanent sequelae, which is seen in 5 to 30% of young patients. The mortality rate is about 3%.

### **St. Louis Encephalitis**

In the United States, the leading cause of epidemic flaviviral encephalitis is St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) virus. SLE is the most common mosquito-transmitted human pathogen in the U.S. While periodic SLE epidemics have occurred only in the Midwest and southeast, SLE virus is distributed throughout the lower 48 states. Since 1964, there have been 4,437 confirmed cases of SLE with an average of 193 cases per year (range 4 - 1,967). However, less than 1% of SLE viral infections are clinically apparent and the vast majority of infections remain undiagnosed. Illness ranges in severity from a simple febrile headache to meningoencephalitis, with an overall case-fatality ratio of 5-15 %. The disease is generally milder in children than in adults, but in those children who do have disease, there is a high rate of encephalitis. The elderly are at highest risk for severe disease and death. During the summer season, SLE virus is maintained in a mosquito-bird-mosquito cycle, with periodic amplification by peridomestic birds and *Culex*

mosquitoes. In Florida, the principal vector is *Cx. nigripalpus*, in the Midwest, *Cx. pipiens pipiens* and *Cx. p. quinquefasciatus* and in the western United States, *Cx. tarsalis* and members of the *Cx. pipiens* complex.

### **Powassan Encephalitis**

Powassan (POW) virus is a flavivirus and currently the only well documented tick-borne transmitted arbovirus occurring in the United States and Canada. Recently a Powassan-like virus was isolated from the deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*. Its relationship to POW and its ability to cause human disease has not been fully elucidated. POW's range in the United States is primarily in the upper tier States. In addition to isolations from man, the virus has been recovered from ticks (*Ixodes marxi*, *I. cookei* and *Dermacentor andersoni*) and from the tissues of a skunk (*Spilogale putorius*). It is a rare cause of acute viral encephalitis. POW virus was first isolated from the brain of a 5-year-old child who died in Ontario in 1958. Patients who recover may have residual neurological problems.

### **Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis**

Like EEE and WEE viruses, Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) is an alphavirus and causes encephalitis in horses and humans and is an important veterinary and public health problem in Central and South America. Occasionally, large regional epizootics and epidemics can occur resulting in thousands of equine and human infections. Epizootic strains of VEE virus can infect and be transmitted by a large number of mosquito species. The natural reservoir host for the epizootic strains is not known. A large epizootic that began in South America in 1969 reached Texas in 1971. It was estimated that over 200,000 horses died in that outbreak, which was controlled by a massive equine vaccination program using an experimental live attenuated VEE vaccine. There were several thousand human infections. A more recent VEE epidemic occurred in the fall of 1995 in Venezuela and Colombia with an estimated 90,000 human infections. Infection of man with VEE virus is less severe than with EEE and WEE viruses, and fatalities are rare. Adults usually develop only an influenza-like illness, and overt encephalitis is usually confined to children. Effective VEE virus vaccines are available for equines.

Enzootic strains of VEE virus have a wide geographic distribution in the Americas. These viruses are maintained in cycles involving forest dwelling rodents and mosquito vectors, mainly *Culex (Melanoconion)* species. Occasional cases or small outbreaks of human disease are associated with these viruses, the most recent outbreaks were in Venezuela in 1992, Peru in 1994 and Mexico in 1995-96.

## **Other Arboviral Encephalitides**

Many other arboviral encephalitides occur throughout the world. Most of these diseases are problems only for those individuals traveling to countries where the viruses are endemic.

### **Japanese Encephalitis**

Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus is a flavivirus, related to SLE, and is widespread throughout Asia. Worldwide, it is the most important cause of arboviral encephalitis with over 45,000 cases reported annually. In recent years, JE virus has expanded its geographic distribution with outbreaks in the Pacific. Epidemics occur in late summer in temperate regions, but the infection is enzootic and occurs throughout the year in many tropical areas of Asia. The virus is maintained in a cycle involving culicine mosquitoes and waterbirds. The virus is transmitted to man by *Culex* mosquitoes, primarily *Cx. tritaeniorhynchus*, which breed in rice fields. Pigs are the main amplifying hosts of JE virus in peridomestic environments.

The incubation period of JE is 5 to 14 days. Onset of symptoms is usually sudden, with fever, headache and vomiting. The illness resolves in 5 to 7 days if there is no CNS involvement. The mortality in most outbreaks is less than 10%, but is higher in children and can exceed 30%. Neurologic sequelae in patients who recover are reported in up to 30% of cases. A formalin-inactivated vaccine prepared in mice is used widely in Japan, China, India, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. This vaccine is currently available for human use in the United States, for individuals who might be traveling to endemic countries.

### **Tick-Borne Encephalitis**

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) is caused by two closely related flaviviruses which are distinct biologically. The eastern subtype causes Russian spring-summer encephalitis (RSSE) and is transmitted by *Ixodes persulcatus*, whereas the western subtype is transmitted by *Ixodes ricinus* and causes Central European encephalitis (CEE). The name CEE is somewhat misleading, since the condition can occur throughout much of Europe. Of the two subtypes, RSSE is the more severe infection, having a mortality of up to 25% in some outbreaks, whereas mortality in CEE seldom exceeds 5%.

The incubation period is 7 to 14 days. Infection usually presents as a mild, influenza-type illness or as benign, aseptic meningitis, but may result in fatal meningoencephalitis. Fever is often biphasic, and there may be severe headache and neck rigidity, with transient paralysis of the limbs, shoulders or less commonly the respiratory musculature. A few patients are left with residual paralysis. Although the great majority of TBE infections follow exposure to ticks, infection has occurred through the ingestion of infected cows' or goats' milk. An inactivated TBE vaccine is currently available in Europe and Russia.

### **West Nile Encephalitis**

Discussed elsewhere in this document

## FLD 43 D HAZARDOUS PLANTS

A number of hazardous plants may be encountered during field operations. The ailments associated with these plants range from mild hay fever to contact dermatitis. Plants that present the greatest risk to site workers are those that produce allergic reactions and tissue injury.

### Plants That Cause Skin and Tissue Injury

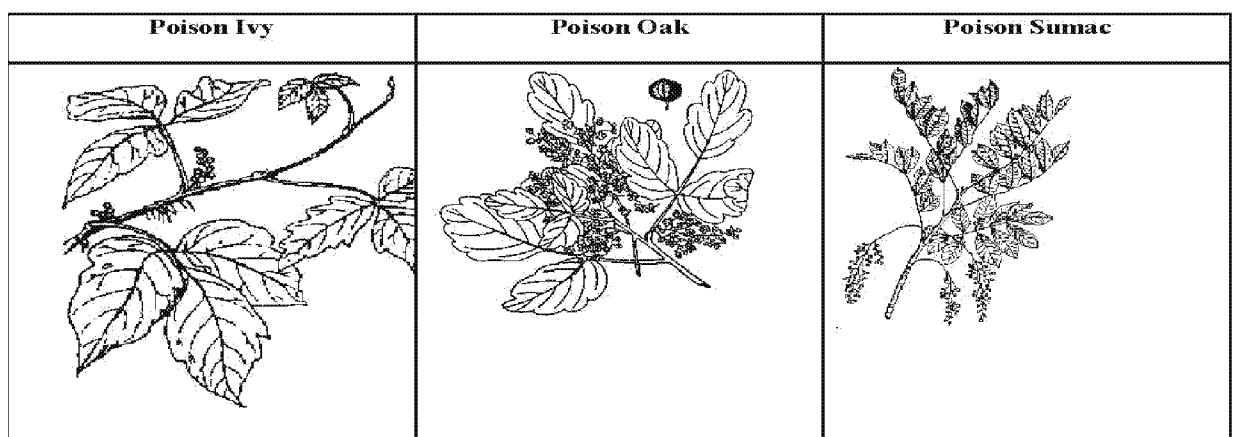
Contact with sharp leaves and thorns are of special concern to site personnel. This concern stems from the fact that punctures, cuts, and even minor scrapes caused by accidental contact may result in skin lesions and the introduction of fungi or bacteria through the skin. This is especially important in light of the fact that the warm moist environment created inside protective clothing is ideal for the propagation of fungal and bacterial infection. Personnel receiving any of the injuries listed above, even minor scrapes shall report immediately for continued observation and care. Keeping the skin covered as much as possible (i.e., long pants and long sleeved shirts) in areas where these plants are known to exist will limit much of the potential exposure.

### Plants That Cause an Allergic Reaction

The poisonous plants of greatest concern are poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. Contact with the poisonous sap of these plants produces a severe rash characterized by redness, blisters, swelling, and intense burning and itching. The victim also may develop a high fever and may be very ill. Ordinarily, the rash begins within a few hours after exposure, but it may be delayed for 24 to 48 hours.

The most distinctive features of poison ivy and poison oak are their leaves, which are composed of three leaflets each. In certain seasons, both plants also have greenish-white flowers and berries that grow in clusters. Poison sumac is a tall shrub or small tree with 6 to 12 leaflets arranged in pairs with a single leaflet at the end. This plant grows in wooded, swampy areas.

**Poison Ivy/Poison Oak/Poison Sumac**



The reaction associated with exposure to these plants will generally cause the following signs and symptoms:

- Blistering at the site of contact, usually occurring within 12 to 48 hours after contact
- Reddening, swelling, itching and burning at the site of contact
- Pain, if the reaction is severe
- Conjunctivitis, asthma, and other allergic reactions if the person is extremely sensitive to the poisonous plant toxin

If the rash is scratched, secondary infections can occur. Preventive measures that are effective for most site personnel include:

- Avoid contact with any poisonous plants on site, and keep a steady watch to identify, report and mark poisonous plants found on site
- Wash hands, face or other exposed areas at the beginning of each break period and at the end of each workday
- Avoid contact with, and wash on a daily basis, contaminated tools, equipment and clothing
- Barrier creams, detoxification/wash solutions and orally administered desensitization may prove effective and should be tried to find the best preventive solution

Keeping the skin covered as much as possible (i.e., long pants and long sleeved shirts) in areas where these plants are known to exist will limit much of the potential exposure.

### **Plants That are Poisonous**

There are a number of plants worldwide beside poison ivy, oak and sumac which have poisonous properties. In many cases consumption of these plants or parts of these plants can result in poisoning. In other cases, contact with the plants may be poisonous. The following is a listing with pertinent information on poisonous properties and locations of a number of plants.

In general, when working in the outdoors or where you may come in contact with household plants or where your families may come in contact with these plants, it is important that as soon as possible after contact the area or areas should be thoroughly washed and hands must be thoroughly washed before eating drinking, smoking or any other hand to mouth contact.

In keeping with our 24/7 BBS concept, it is important to remember that children are particularly vulnerable to many of the poisonous parts of these plants. Many of these poisonous parts resemble non-poisonous food items such as berries and are attractive.

As with most lists there is extensive information but the list may not include all poisonous plants.

It is important to remember that this document is a starting point to be supplemented with local information. The majority of this information is from a list found in Wikipedia an on line Dictionary readily accessible via Google. The website has pictures of these plants as well as links to other information sources.

# POISONOUS PLANTS

From Wikipedia,

This is a list of plants containing poisonous parts that pose a serious risk of illness, injury, or death to humans.

## Poisonous Food Plants

- Apple (*Malus domestica*) **Found worldwide in cooler climates.** Seeds contain cyanogenic glycosides; although the amount found in most apples won't kill a person.
- Cherry (*Prunus cerasus*), as well as other species (*Prunus spp*) such as peach (*Prunus persica*), plum (*Prunus domestica*), almond (*Prunus dulcis*) and apricot (*Prunus armeninaca*). **There are around 430 species of *Prunus*, spread throughout the northern temperate regions of the globe.** Leaves and seeds contain cyanogenic glycosides
- Rhubarb (*Rheum rhaponticum*) **Found worldwide.** Leaves, but not stems, contain oxalic acid salts, causing kidney disorders, convulsions, and coma. Rarely fatal.
- Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) **Found worldwide.** Foliage and vines contain alkaloid poisons which cause digestive upset and nervous excitement.

## Other Poisonous Plants

- Autumn crocus. **Found in North America.** The bulbs are poisonous and cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. **Can be fatal.**
- Azalea **Found Worldwide.** All parts of the plant are poisonous and cause nausea, vomiting, depression, breathing difficulties, and coma. Rarely fatal.
- Bittersweet nightshade **Naturalized in North America.** All parts are poisonous, containing solanine and causing fatigue, paralysis, convulsions and diarrhea. Rarely fatal.
- Bleeding heart / Dutchman's breeches. **Found in North America.** Leaves and roots are poisonous and cause convulsions and other nervous symptoms.
- Black locust. **Naturalized in North America.** Pods are toxic
- Caladium / Elephant ear. **Ornamental plants in North America.** All parts of the plant are poisonous. Symptoms are generally irritation, pain, and swelling of tissues. If the mouth or tongue swells, breathing may be fatally blocked.

- Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*) Castor Oil Plant. **Found Worldwide.** The phytotoxin is **ricin**, an extremely toxic water soluble protein, which is concentrated in the seed. Also present are ricinine, an alkaloid, and an irritant oil. Causes burning in mouth and throat, convulsions, and is **often fatal**.
- Daffodil. **Found worldwide.** The bulbs are poisonous and cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. **Can be fatal.**
- Daphne (*Daphne sp.*) **Ornamental plant worldwide.** The berries (either red or yellow) are poisonous, causing burns to mouth and digestive tract, followed by coma. **Often fatal.**
- Darnel/Poison Ryegrass (*Lolium temulentum*) **Usually grows in the same production zones as wheat and is considered a weed.** The seeds and seed heads of this common garden weed may contain the alkaloids temuline and loline. Some experts also point to the fungus ergot or fungi of the genus endoconidium both of which grow on the seed heads of rye grasses as an additional source of toxicity.
- Deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) **Naturalized in parts of North America.** All parts of the plant contain the toxic alkaloid atropine. The young plants and seeds are especially poisonous, causing nausea, muscle twitches, paralysis; **often fatal**.
- Dumbcane / dieffenbachia. **Found in tropical areas and popular as house plants.** All parts are poisonous, causing intense burning, irritation, and immobility of the tongue, mouth, and throat. Swelling can be severe enough to block breathing leading to death.
- Ivy. **Native to North America** where winters are not severe. The leaves and berries are poisonous, causing stomach pains, labored breathing, possible coma.
- Jerusalem cherry **United States** All parts, especially the berries, are poisonous, causing nausea and vomiting. **Looks like a cherry tomato.** It is occasionally fatal, especially to children.
- Lilies **Worldwide** There are some 3500 species that comprise the lily (Lilaceae) family. Some are beneficial including (foods such as onion, shallot, garlic, chives [all *Allium* spp] and asparagus) and some with medicinal uses (colchicine and red squill) Many produce alkalids which are poisonous, especially to cats.
- Manchineel (*Hippomane mancinella*) **Native to the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands).** It is one of the most poisonous trees in the world All parts of this tree including the fruit contain toxic phorbol esters typical of the Euphorbiaceae. Sap may cause burning of the skin and smoke from burning may cause eye irritation and blindness. Fruits, which are similar in appearance to an apple, are green or greenish-yellow when ripe.
- Oak Worldwide Most species foliage and acorns are mildly poisonous, causing digestive upset, heart trouble, contact dermatitis. Rarely fatal.

- Poison-ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), Poison-oak (*T. diversilobum*), and Poison Sumac (*T. vernix*) **North America** All parts of these plants contain a highly irritating oil with urushiol (this is actually not a poison but an allergen). Skin reactions can include blisters and rashes. It spreads readily to clothes and back again, and has a very long life. Infections can follow scratching.
- Pokeweed (*Phytolacca sp.*) **Native to North America.** Leaves, berries and roots contain phytolaccatoxin and phytolaccigenin - toxin in young leaves is reduced with each boiling and draining.



## **FLD 49 SAFE STORAGE OF SAMPLES**

### **REFERENCE**

DOT Emergency Response Guide (ERG)

To ensure that multi-media samples collected in the course of WESTON work assignments are not stored in a manner that creates undue hazard to WESTON employees or others.

### **PROCEDURE**

Samples that are transported from a WESTON work location must be classified and packaged in compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations or alternatively in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations. WESTON's manual of Procedures for Shipping and Transporting Dangerous Goods must be consulted to determine if the samples will be classified as either "environmental" or "hazardous materials" samples.

#### **Environmental Samples**

Environmental samples are not subject to DOT or IATA dangerous goods regulations and must be packaged to protect their integrity during transportation and temporary storage and should have appropriate chain-of-custody documentation. These samples may be brought to a WESTON office location or rented space to verify sample documentation and repackaging (e.g., with ice or cold packs). Minor spill clean-up capability is required.

Once secured for shipment, these samples can be temporarily stored for the next day ground or air shipment pick-up. Under no circumstances are samples to be stored beyond the time necessary to arrange for transportation to a laboratory.

#### **Hazardous Materials Samples**

These samples are subject to DOT and/or IATA dangerous goods regulations and must be packaged and labeled according to the appropriate regulations, including completed chain-of-custody documentation prior to being transported from the WESTON work site. WESTON drivers must have the documentation for the samples and a DOT Emergency Response Guide (ERG) readily available in the vehicle. The ERG is available on-line at: <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/erg/gydebook.htm> and appropriate sections can be copied to accompany samples being transported by vehicles driven by WESTON employees.

Under normal circumstances these samples should be shipped from the field and never brought back to a WESTON office location or into a rented space. If it is not possible to ship the samples from the field during the same day they are collected, a properly packaged, labeled, and sealed sample shipping container may be brought back to a WESTON office location for shipment to a laboratory the next business day - provided the temporary storage location is secure from access by any personnel who are not trained in shipping hazardous materials. Under no circumstances are samples to be stored in rented space; if necessary, secure temporary storage in a locked vehicle may be authorized. Note that some office leases do not permit the storage of hazardous materials and the lease will govern whether such materials can be stored overnight.

## **INSPECTION FOLLOW-UP**

Shipping procedures for samples should be included in the site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and reviewed for compliance with these procedures prior to approval. EHS audits will include a review to sample shipping and storage procedures.

## **FLD 56 DRILLING SAFETY**

### **REFERENCES**

*WESTON Corporate Environmental, Health, and Safety Program  
Environmental Remediation Drilling Safety Guideline (AntiEntropics, Inc., 2005)*

### **RELATED FLDs**

*FLD02 – Inclement Weather  
FLD03 – Hot Processes  
FLD10 – Manual Lifting and Handling of Heavy Objects  
FLD11 – Rough Terrain  
FLD12 – Housekeeping  
FLD20 – Traffic  
FLD22 – Heavy Equipment Operation  
FLD30 – Hazardous Materials Use and Storage  
FLD31 – Fire Prevention and Protection Planning  
FLD32 – Fire Extinguishers Required and Requirements  
FLD34 – Utilities  
FLD35 – Electrical Safety  
FLD38 – Hand and Power Hand Tools  
FLD47 – Clearing, Grubbing, and Logging Operations  
FLD57 – Motor Vehicle Safety*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Safety is critical when working on or around a drill rig, traveling to and from a drilling site, moving the drill rig and tools from location to location on a site, or providing maintenance on a drill rig or drilling tools.

As allowed by copyright, WESTON has adopted the *Environmental Remediation Drilling Safety Guideline* (ERD Safety Guideline) for use on drilling projects. The ERD Safety Guideline addresses environmental remediation drilling and push-probe safety and is an account of work for a collective of environmental remediation industry parties. As stated in the copyright notice for the ERD Safety Guideline, “the authors of this guidance are not undertaking to meet the duties of employers, manufacturers, or suppliers to warn and properly train and equip their employees, and others exposed, concerning health and safety risks and precautions, nor undertaking their obligations under local, state, or federal laws.” Additionally, “the owner of the copyright hereby grants a nonexclusive, royalty-free license to reproduce and distribute this guide subject to the following limitations:

- The document must be reproduced in its entirety without alterations.
- All copies of this document must include a cover page bearing the copyright notice and this notice.
- Copies of this document may not be sold.

WESTON personnel will use the ERD Safety Guideline in compliance with the copyright notice.

This FLD provides a bridge from Weston's Corporate Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Program to the related processes and forms to be used, and to ERD Safety Guideline information to be implemented, as applicable.

### **Safety during Start-up and Drilling Operations**

The WESTON project manager (PM) and safety personnel are responsible for determining the appropriate procedures to be followed to ensure drilling work is performed safely and must review local, state, and federal laws and regulations that are applicable to each project. If required, client drilling guidelines and/or procedures will be implemented.

Prior to drilling, the PM and field safety officer (FSO) ensure that a site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and activity hazards analyses have been developed in accordance with Weston's EHS Program. Drill rigs must be operated safely in accordance with manufacturer's operating procedures. General safety information is provided in the ERD Safety Guideline. A Pre-Mobilization Checklist is provided as Attachment 1 and a Drill Rig Inspection Checklists is provided as Attachment 2. Additionally, a Borehole Clearance Review checklist (specifically required on ConocoPhillips projects – other clients may have differing requirements) is provided as Attachment 3 and may be modified for use on other projects.

The FSO observes drilling start-up and operations to ensure adherence to safety requirements. The operator must not attempt to exceed manufacturers' ratings of speed, force, torque, pressure, flow, etc. The drill rig and tools must be used only for the purposes for which they are intended and designed.

### **Utilities**

Safety requirements established in FLD 34 *Utilities* and FLD 35 *Electrical Safety* must be observed during drilling operations. Additional utility safety information specific to drilling activities is provided in the ERD Safety Guideline.

### **Field Safety Officer**

Every drill crew should have a designated FSO (in most cases - the drill rig operator). The FSO has the authority to enforce safety on the drilling site. A rig worker's first safety responsibility is to listen to the safety directions of the FSO. The FSO's general responsibilities are established in the EHS Program. Responsibilities specific to drilling include:

- The FSO should understand and communicate that proper maintenance of tools and equipment and general "housekeeping" on the drill rig will provide the environment to promote and ensure safety.
- Before drilling activities begin, the FSO must ensure that the operator (who may be the safety supervisor) has had adequate training and is thoroughly familiar with the drill rig, its controls, and its capabilities.
- The FSO should inspect the drill rig daily for structural damage, loose bolts and nuts, proper tension in chain drives, loose or missing guards or protective covers, fluid leaks, damaged hoses, and or damaged pressure gauges and pressure relief valves.
- The FSO should check and test all safety devices, such as emergency shutdown switches, at least daily and preferably at the start of a drilling shift. Drilling should not be permitted until all emergency shutdown and warning systems are working correctly.
- The FSO should ensure that emergency devices are not wire-grounded, bypassed, or removed.

- The FSO should check that all gauges, warning lights, and control levers are functioning properly and listen for unusual sounds on each starting of an engine.
- The FSO should ensure that all new drill rig workers are informed of safe operating practices on and around the drill rig and should provide each new drill rig worker with a copy of the ERD Safety Guideline or the client's drilling operations safety manual, and, when appropriate, the drill rig manufacturer's operations and maintenance manual. The FSO should ensure that each new employee reads and understands the safety and operations and maintenance manuals.
- The FSO should carefully instruct a crew worker in drilling safety and observe the new worker's progress towards understanding safe operating practices.
- The FSO should ensure that there is a first-aid kit, blood borne pathogen kit, and a fire extinguisher on each drill rig and on each additional vehicle, and ensure that they are properly maintained.
- The FSO (and as many crew members as possible) should be well trained and capable of using first-aid kits, fire extinguisher, and all other safety devices and equipment.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

For most drilling projects, personal protective equipment (PPE) should include a safety hard hat, safety shoes, safety glasses, and close fitting but comfortable clothes, without loose ends, straps, draw strings, belts, or otherwise unfastened parts that might catch on some rotating or translating component of the drill rig. Rings and jewelry should not be worn during a work shift.

For some drilling operations, the environment or regulations may dictate that other PPE be used. The design and composition of the PPE must be determined jointly by the management of the drilling organization and the FSO. Such equipment might include face or ear protection or reflective clothing. Each drill rig worker should wear noise reducing ear protectors when appropriate. When drilling is performed in chemically-or radiological contaminated ground, special protective equipment and clothing may be required. Additional information regarding PPE is provided in the WESTON PPE Program and in the ERD Safety Guideline. The client may have specific requirements concerning PPE. This must be addressed prior to any work and included in the HASP.

### **Housekeeping and Drill Rig Maintenance**

It is critical for safe field operations that the safety supervisor understands and fulfills the responsibility for maintenance and housekeeping on and around the drill rig. General housekeeping requirements are established in FLD 12 and housekeeping inspection forms are available on the EHS Portal site. Housekeeping and maintenance recommendations specific to drilling rigs are also provided in the ERD Safety Guideline.

Drill rig maintenance must be performed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Safety requirements established in FLD 57 must be observed during vehicle maintenance.

### **Safe Use of Hand Tools**

Numerous and various hand tools can be used on or around a drill rig and in repair shops. "Use the tool for its intended purpose" is the most important rule of proper use. Safety requirements established in FLD 38 must be observed for the specific tools to be used on and around drill rigs.

## **Clearing the Work Area**

Prior to drilling, adequate site clearing and leveling should be performed in accordance with FLD 47 *Clearing, Grubbing, and Logging Operations* to provide a safe working area for the drill rig and supplies. Additional information related to clearing and leveling is provided in the ERD Safety Guideline. See also the Borehole Clearance Guidance attached.

## **Safe Use of Electricity**

Drilling projects sometimes require around-the-clock operations and, therefore, require temporary electrical lighting. In general, all wiring and fixtures used to provide electricity for drilling operations should be installed by qualified personnel in accordance with the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70-2005 or most current edition) with consideration of the American Petroleum Institute's recommended practices for electrical installations for production facilities (API-RP-500B). Lights should be installed and positioned to ensure that the work area and operating positions are well lit without shadows or blind spots. The electrical safety requirements established in FLD 35 must be observed during land-based drilling operations. Additional electrical safety information is provided in the ERD Safety Guideline.

## **Safe Use of Wire Line Hoists, Wire Rope, Catheads and Hoists**

The ERD Safety Guideline provides information on wire rope, catheads, and hoisting safety.

## **Safe Use of Augers and Rotary and Core Drilling Tools**

The FSO must ensure that safety precautions and procedures are followed when starting a boring with continuous flight or hollow-stem augers. The operator and tool handler should establish a system of responsibility for the series of various activities required for auger drilling, such as connecting and disconnecting auger sections, and inserting and removing the auger fork. The operator must ensure that the tool handler is well away from the auger column and that the auger fork is removed before starting rotation.

The operator ensures that special precautions are taken for safe rotary or core drilling involve chucking, joint break, hoisting, and lowering of drill rods. The ERD Safety Guideline provides comprehensive safety information for these operations.

## **Safety during Travel**

The individual who transports a drill rig on and off a drilling site must observe traffic safety requirements established in FLD 20 *Traffic* and guidelines specific to drill rigs provided in the ERD Safety Guideline.

## **Loading and Unloading**

Safety requirements established in FLD 57 for loading and unloading vehicles or other items on a trailer or truck must be observed. Guidelines specific to loading and unloading drill rigs are provided in the ERD Safety Guideline.

## **Off-Road Movement**

The safety requirements related to off-road movement established in FLD 11 should be observed. Guidelines specific to off-road movement of drill rigs are provided in the ERD Safety Guideline.

## **Tires, Batteries and Fuel**

Tires, batteries, and fuel must be inspected or checked in accordance with FLD 57.

## **First Aid**

A first aid kit should be available and well maintained on each drill site. At least one or more members of each drill crew should be trained to perform first aid. Weston's EHSTrack is used to track and identify personnel first aid training. Training should be provided or sponsored by the American Red Cross or a similar organization. For drilling operations, it is particularly important that the individual responsible for first aid should be able to recognize the symptoms and be able to provide first aid for electrical shock, heart attack, stroke, broken bones, eye injury, snake bite, and cuts or abrasions to the skin.

## **Drill Rig Alterations**

Alterations to a drill rig or drilling tools should only be made by qualified personnel and only after consultation with the manufacturer. Drill rigs must be inspected after any alterations prior to release for drilling activities. The Drill Rig Inspection Checklist is available on-line on the WESTON EHS Portal Site or through any WESTON safety officer or EHS representative.

# ATTACHMENT 1 PRE-MOBILIZATION CHECKLIST

(Adopted from ERD Safety Guideline Attachment 3.A)

Check When Completed	Checklist of Items
	Participate in boring, utility, locate and walk site
	Verify equipment needs and equipment staging area(s)
	Verify sequence of onsite mobilizations
	Service brakes, including trailer brake connections
	Service Parking (hand) brake
	Service Steering mechanism.
	Service Lighting devices and reflectors
	Service Tires
	Service Horn
	Service Windshield wiper or wipers
	Service Rear-vision mirror or mirrors.
	Service Coupling devices
	Inspect the windshield for cracks, repair or replace as necessary
	Verify that an appropriate, permitted fire extinguisher is within the driver's grasp and that the extinguisher is properly secured.
	Verify supply of sufficient flares or reflectors which can be used in the event of a breakdown while on the highway.
	Verify that seat belts are in good working condition.
	Verify all windows function properly. Repair or replace as necessary
	Verify all doors lock and function properly. Repair or replace as necessary.
	Verify back-up alarms are installed and function properly. Repair/replace as necessary.
	Verify that all lug nuts are properly tightened and that the wheels appear to be in good condition, the spare tire is in good condition, properly inflated, and a suitable jack and lug wrench are available.
	Verify the mast, jacks, deck (s), and tools are completely secured prior to moving the vehicle.
	Verify all tool boxes are closed and properly secured.
	Inspect all spools containing wire rope (cable) and verify they are secured and that the cables will not unwind while driving down the road.



**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**DRILL/DIRECT PUSH TYPE RIG INSPECTION CHECKLIST**  
(Adapted from the ERD Safety Guideline - Attachment 4.B)

SITE/PROJECT NAME: _____	
RIG INSPECTOR (NAME/CO.): _____	
RIG INFORMATION:	
Rig Type:	Rotary/Auger Drilling Rig <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Push Type (DPT) <input type="checkbox"/>
Owner:	_____
Yr/Make:	_____
Model:	_____
VIN #:	_____
Mileage:	_____
Drill Hrs:	_____

***INSPECTOR TO INITIAL COLUMNS BELOW AS APPROPRIATE***

CATEGORY	INSPECTION ITEMS	PASS	FAIL	N/A	ACTION NEEDED
<b>Emergency Switches</b>	Kill switches are located and accessible to workers on both sides of the rotating stem. <b>NOTE:</b> Location and number of switches depend on the rig manufacturer, please refer to owner's manual (DPT typically has one switch on control panel).				
	Kill switches installed by the manufacturer are verified to be in operable condition and all workers are familiar with the location and operation of these switches. <b>NEVER BYPASS, DISABLE, OR REMOVE KILL DEVICES.</b>				
<b>Protective Guards</b>	Drive shafts, belts, chain drives, and universal joints are guarded to prevent accidental insertion of hands, fingers, or tools.				
<b>Cables</b>	Cables on drill rig are free of kinks, frayed wires, birdcages, flat spots, grease, and worn or missing sections.				
	Cables are terminated at the working end with a proper eye splice; swaged, coupled, or using cable clamps.				
	Cable clamps are installed with the saddle on the live or load side. Clamps are not alternated and are of the correct size and number for the cable size.				
	Wire ropes are not allowed to bend around sharp edges without cushion material.				
<b>Pulleys</b>	Pulleys are not to be bent, cracked, or broken.				
	Pulleys operate smoothly and freely, without resistance.				
<b>Cable Winches</b>	Motor is mounted in correct location and tightly secured to drill rig.				
	Winch is capable of being placed in the free spool (unwind smoothly) and locked position correctly, demonstrating that the cable is suitable for lifting during drilling operations.				
<b>Safety Latches</b>	Hooks installed on hoist cables are the safety type with a functional latch to prevent accidental separation.				
	Safety latches are functional and completely span the entire throat of the hook and have positive action to close the throat except when manually displaced for connecting or disconnecting a load.				

CATEGORY	INSPECTION ITEMS	PASS	FAIL	N/A	ACTION NEEDED
<b>Flights/Augers</b>	Flights/Augers should not be bent, cracked, or broken. <b>NOTE:</b> Flights/Augers failing inspection must be removed from jobsite.				
	Flights should be blunt to prevent the risks of cuts.				
	Auger keys should not be bent, have any cracks/fractures, be excessively worn, or otherwise damaged.				
	Auger bolt holes and threads should not be damaged.				
	Inspect flights/augers for metal burrs. <b>NOTE:</b> Burrs must be filed to flat surface.				
	Avoid stacking augers; all should lay flat on ground.				
	Avoid manually lifting/moving augers. Should be lifted/moved with cable lines, or, at a minimum, by two persons.				
<b>Drill String</b>	Drill string should not be bent or have any cracks/fractures.				
	Drill string connecting pins should not be bent, have any cracks/fractures, or be excessively worn.				
<b>Mast</b>	Mast is free of bends, cracks, or broken sections.				
	All mounting hardware (pins, bolts, etc.) should be in place.				
	No moving of drill rig while mast is in vertical position.				
	Maintenance/repairs to be performed on mast only in horizontal position.				
<b>Hammering Device</b>	Hammer free of cracks, fatigue, or other signs of excessive wear.				
	Hammer connections are secure.				
<b>Leveling Devices</b>	Outriggers move in/out and up/down smoothly and freely while using controls on drill rig, with no hydraulic leaks.				
	Outriggers are extended prior to and whenever the mast is raised off its cradle. Outriggers must maintain pressure to continuously support and stabilize the drill rig (even while unattended).				
	Outriggers are properly supported on the ground surface to prevent settling into the soil (use of outrigger support pads).				
<b>Controls</b>	Controls are intact, properly labeled, have freedom of movement, and have no loose wiring or connections.				
	Controls are not blocked or locked into an operating position.				
	Installed lights, signals, gauges, and alarms operate properly.				
<b>Lifting Devices</b>	Slings, chokers, and lifting devices are inspected before using and are in proper working order. <b>NOTE:</b> Damaged units are to be labeled and removed from jobsite.				
	Shackles/Clevises are in proper working order with pins/ screws in place that is to be used while lifting.				
	Cables and lifting devices are not operated erratically or with a jerking action to overcome resistance.				
<b>Hydraulic System</b>	Hydraulic lines are secure, in good condition with no signs of excessive wear, and not leaking. <b>NOTE:</b> Check while pressurized.				
	Hydraulic lines are not in a bent or pinched position causing additional fluid restrictions/pressures.				
	Hydraulic oil reservoir has appropriate amount of oil and not leaking.				
	Documentation available to confirm that pressure relief valve was checked during shop maintenance activity and noted on maintenance log.				

CATEGORY	INSPECTION ITEMS	PASS	FAIL	N/A	ACTION NEEDED
<b>Pump Lines (water, grout, etc.)</b>	Suction/Discharge hoses, pipes, valves, and fittings are secured and not leaking.				
	High pressure hoses have a safety chain, cable, or strap at each end to prevent whipping in the event of a failure.				
<b>Fire Prevention</b>	A fire extinguisher of appropriate size is located on drill rig and readily available/accessible for drilling crew (recommended 20 lb.).				
	Documentation available to confirm that the drilling crew has received training on proper use of fire extinguishers.				
<b>Ladders</b>	Drill rig has a permanently attached or proper portable ladder to be used for access to drilling platform.				
<b>Tracks</b>	Tracks on rig are not excessively worn and free of any debris or foreign material.				
<b>General</b>	Drill rig meets regulations for transport on state/federal highways (inspection sticker, license plate, etc.).				
	Documentation available to verify that rig was inspected prior to arriving at site.				
	Does the rig size meet job requirements?				
	Maintenance log available for previous 3 months to confirm proper maintenance/inspection.				
<b>Exhaust</b>	Exhaust system should be free from defect and routes engine exhaust away from drill rig workers.				
<b>Fuels</b>	Fuel stored in an approved and properly labeled container.				
	Fuel transfer lines free from signs of excessive wear and not leaking.				
	Refueling and transferring of fuel is performed in an approved area with sufficient containment to prevent spillage.				
<b>Exclusion/ Work Zones</b>	The exclusion/work zone is centered over the borehole and the radius equal to or greater than the height of the mast (measured from ground level).				
	The exclusion/work zone should be clear of tripping hazards.				
<b>Overhead Obstructions</b>	Except where electrical distribution and transmission lines have been de-energized and visibly grounded, drill rigs will be operated proximate to under, by, or near power lines in accordance with the following: * 50 KV or less - minimum clearance of 10 feet * 50 KV or greater - add 0.4 inches for every KV over 50 KV * If voltage is unknown, maintain at least 20 feet of clearance.				
	While the rig is in transit, clearance from energized power lines will be maintained as follows: * Less than 50 KV - 4 feet * 50 thru 365 KV - 10 feet * 366 thru 720 KV - 16 feet				
<b>Rig Repairs</b>	Repairs, when possible, are conducted offsite to reduce the risk of any onsite incidents.				
<b>Specialized PPE</b>	When working at elevated heights, workers are to wear a fall restraining device attached in a manner to restrict fall to less than six feet.				
	When working in wet/slippery conditions, all workers have a lug-type sole or similar slip resistant sole, on their safety footwear to prevent slipping.				

***RECOMMENDED SPARE PARTS OR ITEMS TO BE SENT WITH DRILL CREW***

<b>DRILL RIG</b>		<b>DPT RIG</b>	
	Emergency Switch		Emergency Switch
	Drive Coupling		Drive Caps
	Shear pins/keys (for drive coupling)		Cutter Head
	Pump Packing		Pull Cap
	Pump Hoses		Liner Cutter
	Auger Bolts		Rod to Cap Pins
	Rod to cap pins		Liner Holder (used while cutting)
	Cutter Head		Spill Kit (5 gal. Bucket with oil dry and absorbent pads)
	Safety Latches, Hooks, Clamps		
	Split Spoon Cutter Head		
	Spill Kit (5 gal. bucket with oil dry and absorbent pads)		

### ATTACHMENT 3 BOREHOLE CLEARANCE REVIEW

Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Project/WO #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clearance Inspected by: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Is a scaled site plan showing the proposed borehole locations attached to this form?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Are all of the proposed borehole locations at least 3 feet (or farther as dictated by utility owners and regulation) from any subsurface utilities plans?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Are all of the proposed borehole locations at least 3 feet from any subsurface utilities shown on public right-of-way street improvement plans?  PM to check here <input type="checkbox"/> if applicable to this job.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Does the Facility Manager or on-site representative have any knowledge of any subsurface utilities within 3 feet of the proposed borehole locations? (Review locations with the facility manager or client contact as appropriate).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Are all of the proposed borehole locations at least 3 feet from any subsurface utilities identified during a geophysical survey if one was conducted?  PM to check here <input type="checkbox"/> if applicable to this job.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Have all underground service alert providers (One-Call) marked out their facilities in the vicinity of the borehole locations?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Do any of the proposed borehole locations lie on a line connecting two similar looking manhole covers or other utility structures?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Do any of the proposed borehole locations lie on a line perpendicular to the street from the water, gas, phone, or electrical service drops or meters?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Has the pavement in the vicinity of any of the proposed borehole locations subsided or does it give the appearance it may be covering a former trench?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Have you hand augured or post-hole dug a hole or otherwise cleared this location (vacuum excavated, pot holed) to 6 feet below grade before using the drill rig?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Is the diameter of the hand augured or post hole greater than the outer diameter of the drilling auger or tools you will be using?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Is the soil you encountered in the hand augured or post hole clean gravel, clean sand, aggregate base (gravelly sand with ~10% fines), or non-native looking material? Were there any utility tape or markers found in the clearance hole?

Questions 1 thru 9 must be answered prior to mobilizing a drilling rig to the site. Questions 10 thru 12 should be answered prior to drilling by the field staff. DO NOT DRILL, if you answered NO to questions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, or 11 or answered YES to questions 4, 7, 8, 9, or 12. Contact your supervisor for instructions and describe the conflict on the back of this form.

## **Borehole Clearance Guidance**

### **Introduction:**

This brief has been developed to assist teams in the process of clearing boring, drilling, probing, or excavating locations prior to initiating the work. For the sake of simplicity and clarity, the term *boring* shall be synonymous with all intrusive work activities, including but not limited to; drilling, probing, auguring, coring, boring, and excavating. It must be understood that subsurface investigation work presents a unique set of challenges and hazards, and it is up to the *entire project team* to fully and properly evaluate the specific circumstances of every boring location prior to initiating the work. The attached check list will help summarize some of the most important parts of what is discussed below.

### **One-Call:**

Teams must check their specific state and local regulations, as well as, any site or client specific underground utility clearance procedures.

### **Clearance**

For the purpose of this brief, clearance means determining if a boring location is safe to advance based on several factors. These factors include:

- The presence of overhead or underground utility structures
- The proximity of the boring to other structures (buildings, roads, infrastructure)
- The slope of the terrain
- Other physical, chemical, biological, and environmental factors

As you can see there are many factors that need to be considered when clearing a location for boring work. A thorough planning session is required to assure that the hazards have been identified and can be controlled prior to advancing borings. The clearance of borings is an ongoing process from initial clearance throughout the implementation phase integrating observations and feedback during the project life cycle. A closer look at hazards follows.

### **Hazard Recognition, Assessment & Monitoring**

Before we can begin to look at the types of hazards we can reasonably expect to encounter during boring work, we must recognize that clearing a boring location is *one step in a much larger process* that continues throughout the implementation phase of the work. Furthermore, on sites where multiple borings or excavations are to be advanced, information gained about the accuracy of utility mark-outs and expectations about subsurface conditions must be refined based on observations and feedback. All too often teams are content when the initial location clearance is completed, forget to revisit this task based on what is confirmed at other locations. A brief discussion of types of hazards we expect to encounter when advancing borings follows:

**Physical Hazards:** The equipment typically used to advance borings is by design heavy and robust. Because we expect to encounter dense materials like asphalt, concrete, glacial till and rock, the tools and

equipment are heavy and durable enough to cut into and through these materials without breaking. That means moving and operating these tools and equipment presents physical hazards associated with lifting, handling, positioning and operating. Care must be taken not to get caught under, or in between these heavy objects.

The locations where borings are advanced are sometimes on sloped surfaces, have overhead or underground obstructions, or may be in tight or tough to get to positions next to or inside of buildings or structures. Care must be taken in getting the equipment into position without exposing the people to contact hazards. Care must be taken to protect existing structures from damage. Care must be taken to protect personnel and equipment from exposure to traffic hazards.

Once the equipment is in place and operating there is typically hazardous levels of noise generated by the equipment so hearing protection is a must. This equipment typically vibrates during operation so it may shift or move while operating. If the equipment is on jacks, blocks or cribbing to level it that structure may become unstable because of the vibration.

During equipment operation there is to possibility that teams may drill, or bore into pressurized or energized utility structures. This is discussed in FLD-34. The equipment itself may have pressurized hydraulic and pneumatic lines as well as rotating, moving or sliding parts. We need to rely on the training knowledge and experience of the boring contractors to keep us aware and protected from these hazards.

Since many boring operations are conducted year round and outside other physical hazards include heat and cold stress.

**Chemical hazards:** Exposure to chemical hazards during boring operations may result from drilling into impacted materials, utility or product line damage, exposure to fumes or vapors from the boring and/or the equipments engine, and finally from exposure to materials and fluids within the boring equipment (fuels, oils, coolants, lubricants, etc.) Additional chemical hazards may be present from the cleaning and decontamination of boring tools and equipment and the chemicals used to preserve environmental samples (acids).

**Biological hazards:** The potential for exposure to biological hazards while conducting borings may exist from contact with injurious plants, animals and organisms (ticks, bacteria, microbes) within the work space or within the boring's cuttings. For this reason skin contact with soiled tools and equipment should be avoided. This topic is discussed further in FLD-43

**Radiological hazards:** The probability of exposure to non-ionizing radiation during boring is likely since most boring operations are conducted outside. However, during the planning and initial clearance evaluation historical site activities as well as conceptual site models for the project site must be evaluated for the likely hood of exposure to ionizing radiation as well.

The very nature of boring operations lends to a large number of potential exposures to hazards of varying type and magnitude, but by and large the potential for exposure to physical hazards are the most prevalent. Do not disregard the possibility of the potential for exposure to chemical, biological, or radiological hazards, but certainly do not under estimate the probability of exposure to physical hazards.

## **Implementation**

Personnel advancing borings, and supervisors of boring teams, need to be vigilant with regard to monitoring the conditions observed at the boring location and comparing the expected conditions with the observed conditions. These conditions include:

- The types of materials (sand, clay, stone, concrete, etc.),
- The expected depths of these materials,
- The expected difficulty or ease of penetration into these materials.

The team needs to have a focus and awareness for precursor and indicators, i.e., any unusual and unexpected situations that occur during the boring work. These observations must be communicated throughout the team so that individuals with unique experience in these situations become aware and can recognize any potential hazards before there are exposures to these hazards. Early hazard awareness and communication are critical components to successful clearance and implementation of boring programs.

The important item to remember here is that things are not always as they appear and there is no substitute for experience, or common sense. Remember to look critically at the facts and keep an open mind.

## **Conclusion**

As mentioned earlier the act of clearing a boring location is the first step in a larger process and observations and feedback must be incorporated into that process as it develops and matures. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the associated FLDs and work closely with team members to take advantage of their unique knowledge and experience.



# **RADIATION SAFETY**

THE APPROVAL SIGNATURES ARE KEPT ON FILE  
WITH WESTON'S POLICIES AND PRACTICES

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

It is the policy of Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®) that all managers and employees will conduct radiological work activities in a manner that keeps radiation exposures as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA), and in compliance with the requirements of WESTON's source material licenses and applicable regulations as specified in Section 2.

WESTON and its subcontractors will take all reasonable precautions in planning and conducting work activities at sites actually or potentially contaminated with radioactive materials to minimize exposures to workers and the public, and to prevent the spread of contamination to the environment. WESTON will maintain this policy by implementing project designs, field engineering controls, administrative exposure limits, and work practices in accordance with guidance provided in this operating practice. WESTON may adopt as policy the recommendations of the International Commission of Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) to the extent that they are consistent with existing corporate policy and regulatory requirements. In addition, WESTON and its subcontractors shall conduct work activities in compliance with applicable Federal, state and local regulations.

This operating practice defines the WESTON radiation safety organization and the administrative health and safety responsibilities of project personnel.

It provides guidance for radiological projects from conceptual design through field implementation. It specifies criteria for complying with regulatory standards, and describes radiological protection program components, guidelines for storage and transportation of radioactive materials, and administrative limits applicable to radiological operations. It is intended to provide uniformity in WESTON's approach to field projects involving potential exposures to ionizing radiation.

## **2.0 STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS**

WESTON and its subcontractors will comply with all applicable Federal, state, and local radiation safety regulations and requirements including, but not limited to, those established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Special attention should be given to the regulations listed below. Other requirements may apply at facilities owned or regulated by other Federal departments or state agencies.

- 29 CFR Part 1910, "Occupational Safety and Health Standards."

- 49 CFR Parts 172-174, “Transportation of Hazardous Materials.”
- 10 CFR Part 20, “Standards for Protection Against Radiation.”
- 10 CFR Part 835, Chapter 3 – Department of Energy “Occupational Radiation Protection.”

### **3.0 RADIATION EXPOSURE STANDARDS AND WESTON ADMINISTRATIVE LIMITS**

To ensure compliance with applicable radiation exposure standards, WESTON institutes administrative limits for WESTON employees and subcontractors that are more restrictive than the regulatory limits provided in 29 CFR 1910.1096. These administrative limits are 100 millirem (mrem) per calendar year dose to the whole body from internal and external sources, and 10 percent of the applicable limits for inhalation and ingestion. The applicable limits for inhalation and ingestion will be taken from 10 CFR 20 Subpart C when no other regulatory limits apply. The administrative limits will not be exceeded without prior approvals in accordance with the following provisions:

- Exposures ranging from the administrative limit of 100 mrem per year up to 500 mrem per year and 30 percent of the 10 CFR 20 Appendix B, Table I limits may be approved by the Profit Center Manager or Project Manager only if affected employees have received site-specific training that describes the potential exposure levels and health risks associated with the project or emergency response action involving nuclear, biological and/or chemical materials, appropriate health physics monitoring is conducted under the supervision of a professional health physicist (with appropriate experience), and a task-specific ALARA program has been reviewed by a health physicist and implemented for the project.
- Planned exposures above 500 mrem per year, including emergency response operations that have the potential for exposures up to a maximum of 5000 mrem per year or 3000 mrem per calendar quarter (the maximum radiation dose allowed per 29 CFR 1910.1096), are permitted after a Project/Program-specific Radiation Safety Plan has been developed and reviewed by the Director, Corporate Environmental Health and Safety (CEHS) and/or the Corporate Radiation Safety Officer (CRSO). Weston employees or subcontractors shall not participate in work activities for any duration where the work exposures (dose equivalents) have the potential to exceed 3000 mrem per quarter or 5000 mrem in one year, not even on a voluntary basis for emergency response activities. A Project/Program-specific Radiation Safety Plan provides details as to personnel qualifications, instrumentation, monitoring protocols, personal protective equipment (PPE), respiratory protection, and radiation safety training requirements. It also identifies local/regional professional health physics resources that will directly supervise operations utilizing ALARA principles. Exposures that may approach 5000 mrem per year or high dose-rate environments (e.g., 100 mrem/hour or greater) must be conducted under the direction and guidance of a Certified Health Physicist (CHP), or similarly qualified professional health physicist, possessing relevant experience.
- Documented doses in excess of 100 mrem per year or 50 mrem per calendar quarter without the prior approvals described above must be reported immediately to the Director, CEHS and CRSO. **NOTE:** Exposures in excess of 5000 mrem per year or 3000 mrem per calendar quarter must be immediately reported to the Director, CEHS and CRSO, as well as the NRC or other responsible agency.

- The annual occupational dose limits for minors are 10 percent of the annual dose limits specified for adults. In addition, the dose to a woman who has declared herself to be pregnant must be less than 500 mrem during the entire gestation period. Work activities must not increase exposures to individuals in unrestricted areas above 100 mrem per year. These regulatory and administrative limits exclude exposures due to natural background and medical sources.

#### **4.0 RADIATION SAFETY PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Radiation Safety Program is administered by WESTON's CEHS Department. The corporate programs are implemented by the Division Managers. The Profit Center Managers and Project Managers implement specific programs and procedures associated with radioactive materials licenses and radiological projects. Individual responsibilities are described in the following subsections.

##### **4.1 Director, Corporate Environmental Health and Safety and Quality Assurance**

The Director, CEHS, has overall responsibility for establishing and managing the programs of the CEHS Department. The CEHS Director's duties in maintaining the Radiation Safety Program include the following:

- Revise this operating practice and radiation safety guidance documents when required to ensure compliance with regulatory changes.
- Develop and maintain supplemental guidance documents for WESTON's radiation safety programs.
- Inform the Division Managers of the Radiation Safety Program requirements, as necessary.
- Organize and manage a central recordkeeping file to maintain the personnel radiation dose records and other data required by this operating practice.
- Approve or deny requests for variances from the guidelines of this operating practice and requests to exceed administrative limits.
- Ensure that radiation safety training is provided to employees as needed, and in compliance with license requirements.

##### **4.2 Division Manager**

The Division Manager is ultimately responsible for implementing the policy and procedures associated with health and safety. The day-to-day management and implementation are normally delegated to the Profit Center Manager or Project Manager.

##### **4.3 Profit Center Manager**

The Profit Center Manager is responsible for approving requests and applications for radioactive material licenses and ensuring that radiation safety programs are established and maintained to ensure compliance with license conditions. Specific responsibilities include the following:

- Sign license applications to indicate the company's agreement to meet commitments described in the application.
- Ensure that license fees are paid in a timely manner.
- Ensure that radiation safety programs, source inventories, personnel monitoring, and inspections are conducted as required by licenses.
- Ensure that documentation and recordkeeping are completed as required by regulations and license requirements.

#### 4.4 Project Manager

The Project Manager is responsible for establishing and maintaining radiation safety programs on projects that involve radiological hazards. Specific responsibilities include the following:

- Develop, approve, and implement a project-specific health and safety plan that describes detailed requirements for the project Radiation Safety Program.
- Ensure that professional health physics support is provided to the project during planning and field activities.
- Document the results of radiological measurements, contamination monitoring, and personnel dosimetry and place them into the permanent project files.
- Provide personnel dosimetry results to the Director, CEHS for inclusion in the corporate database.

#### 4.5 WESTON Employees and WESTON Subcontractors

All employees of WESTON and WESTON subcontractors who work on radiological projects have health and safety responsibilities that include the following:

- Read and become familiar with health and safety plans for projects in which they are involved.
- Abide by applicable radiation safety policies and procedures, and state and Federal regulations.
- Help ensure that their radiation doses and doses received by their co-workers are as low as reasonably achievable.
- Report all unsafe radiological conditions to the Site Manager and suggest improvement in operations to minimize exposures of personnel.

### 5.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Director, CEHS maintains guidance documents that provide specific radiation safety program requirements. General guidance for addressing radioactive materials licenses, acquiring radioactive sources, and responding to radiological incidents is provided in the following subsections.

#### 5.1 Licensing, Permitting, and Legal Correspondence

All correspondence that addresses licensing, permitting, or other legal or regulatory matters will be generated and signed by the Profit Center Manager whose operations require the license and are affected by the regulations. The Profit Center Manager is responsible for ensuring that adequate resources are provided to maintain radiation safety programs that will ensure compliance with license requirements. A co-signature of the appropriate Division Manager may also be required where certain commitments of corporate funds or policy are expressed. Copies of radioactive material licenses and related correspondence must be provided to the CEHS Director for maintenance in corporate files.

## 5.2 Purchasing

All purchases of regulated radioactive materials must have the approval of the Profit Center Manager whose operations require the materials. The Profit Center Manager is responsible for ensuring that licenses are acquired and maintained as necessary to allow possession and use of radioactive materials, or that proper precautions are in place for using radioactive materials that may be acquired without a license.

## 5.3 Incident Records and Notification Procedure

Radiological incidents will be handled as specified in the emergency procedures section of the project health and safety plan. The Project Manager will follow corporate accident/injury reporting requirements as specified by the CEHS and Risk Management Departments. Additional notification and reporting requirements will be followed as required by Federal, state, or local regulations.

## 5.4 Transportation, Storage, and Disposal of Radioactive Materials

WESTON and its subcontractors will comply with applicable Federal and state regulations regarding transportation of radioactive contaminated materials. Prior to transport of such materials, the radionuclides and activities involved will be estimated to determine the appropriate procedures and precautions to be followed. Persons shipping or transporting radioactive materials are responsible for ensuring that regulations are met and must comply with Corporate dangerous goods shipping procedures. For more detailed guidance, project-specific requirements will be developed and provided in the health and safety plan.

Radioactive materials will be stored in a manner to maintain exposures to personnel ALARA and to prevent the spread of contamination. Radioactive materials will be disposed in compliance with license requirements and applicable regulations.

## 5.5 Emergency Response

Emergency response procedures will be developed as part of the site-specific health and safety plans to address the radiological aspects of potential accidents, spills, and contaminating events. Procedures will emphasize the importance of containing radioactive materials on the site, and will designate an individual to oversee cleanup activities and conduct contamination surveys in case of a contaminating event. Emergency response agencies will be informed of the radiological hazards that exist at the project site. Guidelines for emergency response will include notification of appropriate regulatory agencies and radiation safety personnel.

## **6.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

The Director, CEHS, or his/her designee, is responsible for interpreting this operating practice.